- **BUSINESS/B1** Foreign employers coming from 20 countries to hire professional, skilled workers
- **METRO/A17** Montalban dump to stay open until December
- **NEWS/A2** DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo summons US chargé d'affaires on embassy reports
- **ACROSS/A16** NPAs kill 4 rival rebels in Negros Occidental

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Palace: It's time Congress enacted wage increase

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning

DEPARTING FROM ITS POSITION THAT wage increases should be set by regional wage boards, Malacañang yesterday said it was about time Congress legislated an increase in minimum wages to cushion the impact of the expanded value-added tax on workers.

PALACE/ A7

Customs 'open-drawer' habit to be nailed shut

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO CURB CORRUPTION, acting Customs Commissioner Alexander Arevalo promised Congress that he would order the customary "open drawers" of customs officials to be

CUSTOMS/ A7

DAPAT ANG IPAKO ANG MAY-ARI NG DRAWER!

₱ at 5-mo high; stocks up

Investors welcome VAT law

By Doris C. Dumlao, Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Michelle V. Remo

THE PESO STRENGTHENED yesterday against the US dollar, while Philippine shares closed higher after a four-day weekend, as investors cheered the implementation of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax.

Held up for six months by a legal challenge, the expanded VAT finally took effect on Nov. 1. The tax, which now covers politically sensitive products like petroleum products and electricity, is aimed at reducing the government's massive budget deficit.

Optimism created by the expanded VAT's collection has also given the country a better chance of an improved credit rating, according to the Department of Finance.

"The improving investor sentiment will not only allow the government to generate savings because of lower borrowing cost, but actual investment inflows

P AT 5-MO HIGH/ A7

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOR PEACE

ERIK ARAZAS

"EVIDENCE IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL" against broadcaster Julius Babao, says AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence Rear Adm. Tirso Danga during a press conference at Aguinaldo on Wednesday.

Bunye: Babao report not off the record

CONTRARY TO HIS EARLIER statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye corrected himself last night that the disclosure of President Macapagal-Arroyo about the alleged involvement of an ABS-CBN broadcaster in the bailout of a terror suspect was not "off the record."

Ms Arroyo told INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo last week that Julius Babao had posted bail in April for Tyrone "Dawud" Santos, reportedly the second in command of the radical Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM).

"I had the earlier impression that conversation [with the President] was off the record. But after checking, I found out that Mon Tulfo did not violate any confidentiality. My apologies to Mon and PDI," Bunye said.

Ms Arroyo also told Tulfo the Isafp report on the matter was "very disturbing."

Opposition senators criticized Malacañang and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) for putting the heat on Babao.

Sen. Serge Osmeña, who is married to a member of the Lopez family that owns ABS-CBN, said Ms Arroyo's linking of Babao to Dawud Santos amounted to "squid tactics to divert public attention from the real issues" hounding the administration.

"It is also meant to put pressure on members of the media," Osmeña said.

BUNYE/ A6

2 experts say Bush losing war on terrorism

WASHINGTON—US TERRORISM EXPERTS Daniel Benjamin and Steven-Simon have reached a stark conclusion about the war on terrorism: The United States is losing.

Despite an early victory over the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan, the two former Clinton administration officials say US President George W. Bush's policies have created a new haven for terrorism in Iraq that escalates the potential for Islamic violence against Europe and the United States.

America's badly damaged image in the Muslim world could take more than a generation to set right. And Bush's mounting political woes at home have undermined the chance for any bold US initiatives to address the grim social realities that feed Islamic radicalism, according to the two experts.

"It's been fairly disastrous," says Benjamin, who worked as a director for counterterrorism at the National Security Council from 1994 to 1999.

"We have had some very important successes getting individual terrorists. But I think the broader story is really quite awful. We have done a lot to fuel the fires, and we have done a lot to encourage people to hate us," he adds in an interview.

Benjamin and Simon, a former state department official who was also at the NSC, are co-authors of a new book titled: "The Next Attack: The Failure of the War on Terror and a Strategy for Getting it Right" (Times Books).

Following on from their 2002 book, "The Age of Sacred Terror" (Random House), Benjamin and Simon list what they call US

2 EXPERTS/ A6

Muslims end monthlong fast, party

By Nash Maulana
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Samira Gutoc
Contributor

PHILIPPINE MUSLIMS END THE HOLY fasting month of Ramadan today with the Eid'l Fitr celebrations.

Jaafar Ali, a member of the Darul Ifta (House of Opinion) in Central Mindanao, yesterday announced that the congregational prayers for Eid would start at 6:30 a.m. at the Cotabato Pilot Elementary School in Cotabato City.

The breaking of the fast completes the monthlong abstention from food and physical pleasures from dawn to dusk. Under the lunar Hejira calendar, Ramadan started upon the sighting of the moon. This year, it was on Oct. 4.

Officially, the government has declared Friday a holiday to mark Eid.

Muslim communities have been preparing for three days of festivities, shopping for food and decorating homes for reunions after prayers.

Celebrations were being organized in Quiapo, Luneta and Maharlika Village's Blue Mosque.

MUSLIMS/ A6

UNDP may quit $12-M Samar project, clergy protests over logging resumption

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT Program is likely to withdraw funding for a $12-million conservation project in Samar as a result of the Philippine government's decision to allow the resumption of logging in a protected area on the island.

Sources said the UNDP indicated during a meeting with project managers last month that it might back out of the second phase of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) if logging operations would resume.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has allowed San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC), a logging firm owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, to resume operations.

In Borongan, Eastern Samar, Bishop Leonardo Y. Medroso and other members of the clergy prepared to mount a united protest.

The UNDP has released $8 million for the SIBP since the project started in 2001. The first phase, scheduled for completion in December 2006, has a P19-million counterpart fund from the DENR.

The project gave rise to the Samar Island Nature Park (SINP) in 2003, which is now home to the only healthy lowland forests on the island.

The UNDP is supposed to provide another $4 million for the second phase of the SIBP, which starts in 2007. But UNDP officials were apparently dismayed by the decision allowing the Enrile firm to cut trees within the SIBP protection area comprising more than 300,000 hectares.

"The DENR order allowing logging effectively nullifies the SINP. That's why Enrile's [earlier] requests have been denied. The national policy then was for conservation, not logging," SIBP co-

UNDP/ A7

PNP PIO

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ordered, pyschiatrist Senior Supt. Herminigilda Salangad.

PNP grooming psychiatrist as spokesperson

By Luige A. del Puerto

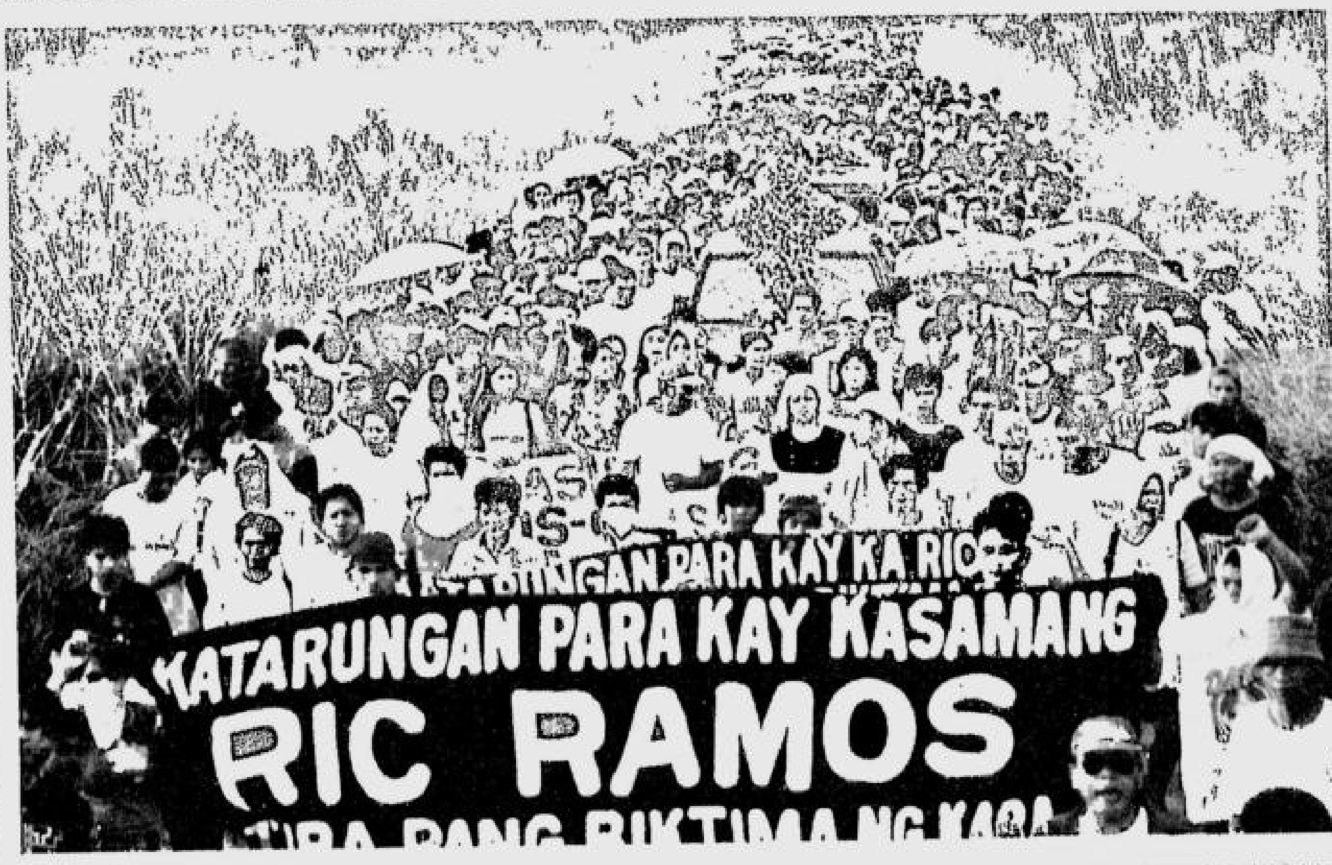
A CERTIFIED PSYCHIATRIST MIGHT BE just what the doctor ordered to improve the image of the Philippine National Police in the midst of the imbroglio over the government's calibrated preemptive response policy.

This one's arsenal also includes a lipstick and face powder.

Senior Supt. Herminigilda Salangad, one of the high-ranking women in the 115,000-strong PNP, is being groomed to replace Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil as spokesperson of the organization.

The 47-year-old Salangad finds herself in an unusual situation.

PNP GROOMING/ A6



REM ZAMORA

"THE MENDIOLA OF CENTRAL LUZON," three bishops, who concelebrated the funeral Mass for murdered labor leader Ric Ramos, describe Hacienda Luisita. (Above) The widow Lily Ramos with youngest son Joshua are inconsolable at the burial of her husband, on Wednesday. *(Story on Page A2.)*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon, Southern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/11/03/05

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

US envoy summoned on FVR coup report

By Volt Contreras

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS YESTERDAY summoned United States Embassy officials to shed light on documents the embassy had reportedly sent to Washington regarding a plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, including one linking former President Fidel Ramos to the alleged conspiracy.

Emerging from a 30-minute meeting with Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Edsel Custodio, US Chargé d'Affaires Paul Jones said he just reiterated "our strong view" that media reports "allegedly based on those documents distort completely the relationship that we had with the Philippines and the relationship that we value with individuals across the political spectrum."

Asked to confirm the existence of such documents, Jones said: "I think I have to leave it at that."

The documents were the subject of a series of reports that appeared in the INQUIRER over the past two months.

They were believed to be part of the cache of top-secret files allegedly stolen in Washington and sent to Manila by Filipino-American Leandro Aragoncillo, a former analyst in the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Michael Rey Aquino, a senior police official associated with opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"The main point I want to convey is that we have a very substantial agenda. We work very closely with the government of the Philippines and the story you are talking about—I can understand the interest in it—is not what we focus on every day in our embassy or in Washington," Jones told reporters.

The US official declined to cite specific distortions in the media reports.

He said there was already "a serious criminal investigation into allegations that classified documents were passed in the United States outside of government hands."

He was apparently referring to the espionage charges against Aragoncillo and Aquino.

Jones led a team of US diplomats in the 3 p.m. meeting with Custodio, who is in charge at the DFA while Secretary Alberto Romulo is on an official trip to the US.

"I felt the need to have it clarified," Custodio told reporters after Jones and his party had left.

DOJ files tax evasion charge vs Judy Anne

By Leila B. Salaverria

UPHOLDING THE BUREAU OF INternal Revenue, the Department of Justice has recommended the filing of tax evasion charges against actress Judy Anne Santos for allegedly underdeclaring her income and failing to pay P1.395 million in income taxes for the year 2002.

She could face up to four years in prison and a fine of up to P100,000 if convicted.

In a resolution signed by prosecution attorney Olivia Torrevillas, the DOJ also dismissed Santos' counter charges against former BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno and other bureau officials. Santos claimed they had violated the antigraft and corrupt practices act and the code of conduct for public officials in filing the complaint against her.

Santos could face two to four years in prison and pay a fine of P30,000 to P100,000 if convicted, said Assistant State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon. The case will be filed in the Court of Tax Appeals.

"In this case, the respondent's failure to declare as income in her income tax return for 2002 an amount representing more than 30 percent of her declared income creates a prima facie evidence that she knowingly and willfully filed a false and fraudulent return," Torrevillas said.

According to the BIR, Santos had earned a total of P16,396,234.70 million in 2002 from ABS-CBN, Viva Productions, Star Cinema, Century Canning Corp. and Regal Entertainment, but her income tax return stated that she only earned P8,033,332.70 million that year, the resolution pointed out.

As per the BIR's computation, the actress paid only P2,857.45 in taxes in 2002, which was P1,395,116.24 short of the right amount.

Santos claimed the BIR had deliberately and maliciously omitted the taxes withheld at source, which amounted to over P2.8 million, that resulted in the erroneous computation of her tax liability for 2002. She added that given the taxes withheld at source, she had even overpaid her income tax by P1.09 million.

She also denied signing any fraudulent document in connection with her 2002 income tax return and said the preparation of the document was done in good faith by her accountant.

But according to Torrevillas, the actress "miserably failed" to explain why she failed to declare a substantial portion of her income for 2002. "Hence, the presumption that she knowingly and willfully filed a false and fraudulent return becomes conclusive."

Torrevillas said Santos was wrong to claim she overpaid her taxes since she only paid P2,857.45 in income tax in 2002.

Bishop to Luisita mourners: Don't rush to judgment

TARLAC CITY—THE PRESIDENT OF THE Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and another senior prelate yesterday appealed to angry supporters of slain labor leader Ricardo Ramos not to rush judgment on who was behind his murder.

"It's always wrong and dangerous to make rash judgments," Davao City Archbishop Fernando Capalla told reporters shortly before the start of the funeral Mass yesterday.

"When you base it on rumors not on truth, you make wrong decisions and people make wrong responses, creating only more confusion," said Capalla.

Supporters of Ramos suspect that the government planned the murder, hoping to pin the blame on the family of former President Corazon Aquino whose family owns the 5,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita sugar estate.

They believe the motive was to discredit Aquino who has severed ties with President Macapagal-Arroyo, calling for her resignation.

Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cinense said he did not believe that the killing was the handiwork of the Arroyo administration.

"I don't think so. The labor issue was already here even before the conflict [between Ms Arroyo and Aquino]," he said.

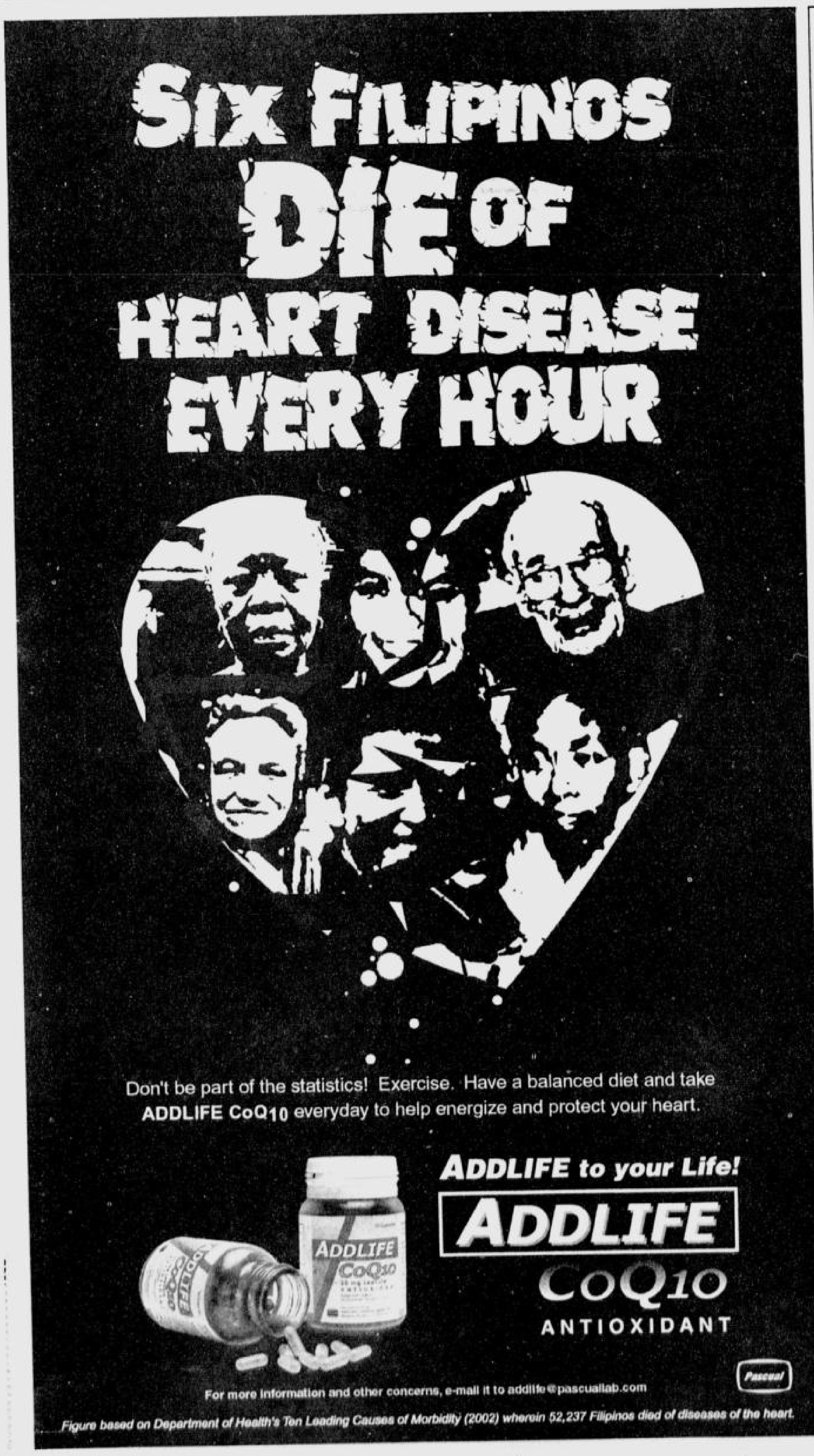
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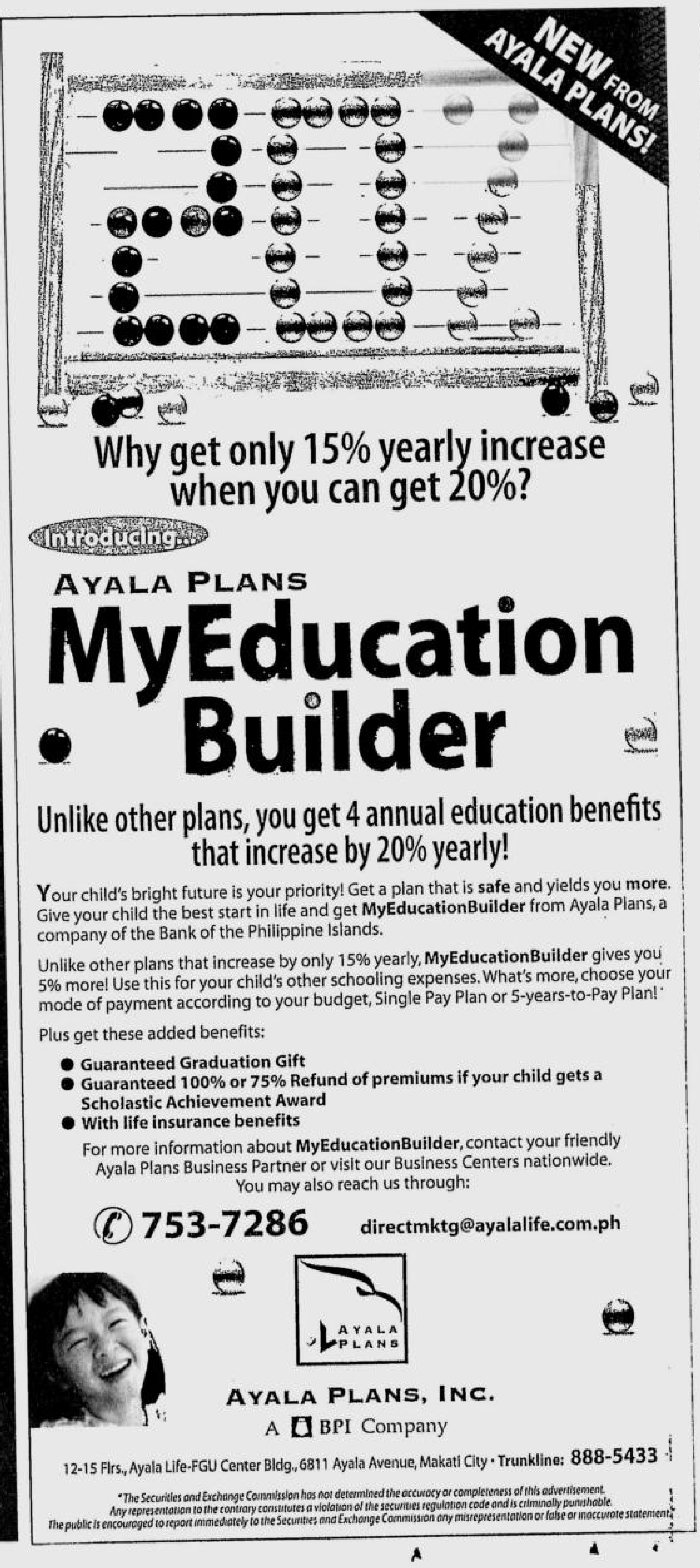
Figure based on Department of Health's Ten Leading Causes of Morbidity (2002) wherein 52,237 Filipinos died of diseases of the heart.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Moro rebs may disarm village detachment in South Cotabato

A MUSLIM SEPARATIST GUERRILLA unit in a South Cotabato village may disarm following complaints by foreign troops monitoring a three-year-old truce with the government, a rebel spokesman said yesterday.

About 50 Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas have set up a "detachment" in their own village of Pulonuling near the town of Tupi, South Cotabato, MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu told reporters by telephone.

"We might take out the firearms," Kabalu said. "The complaints were about the display and we are looking into that."

He said the complaint was lodged by a small ceasefire monitoring team mainly composed of soldiers from Malaysia, which has also been hosting peace talks between Manila and the MILF.

"It's a detachment within a residential community," Kabalu said, adding that the MILF gunmen there are also residents of the village.

A joint ceasefire monitoring committee is investigating a government complaint that the detachment violated the terms of the May 2002 ceasefire.

The government and the MILF are scheduled to resume peace talks later this month in Malaysia. *AFP*

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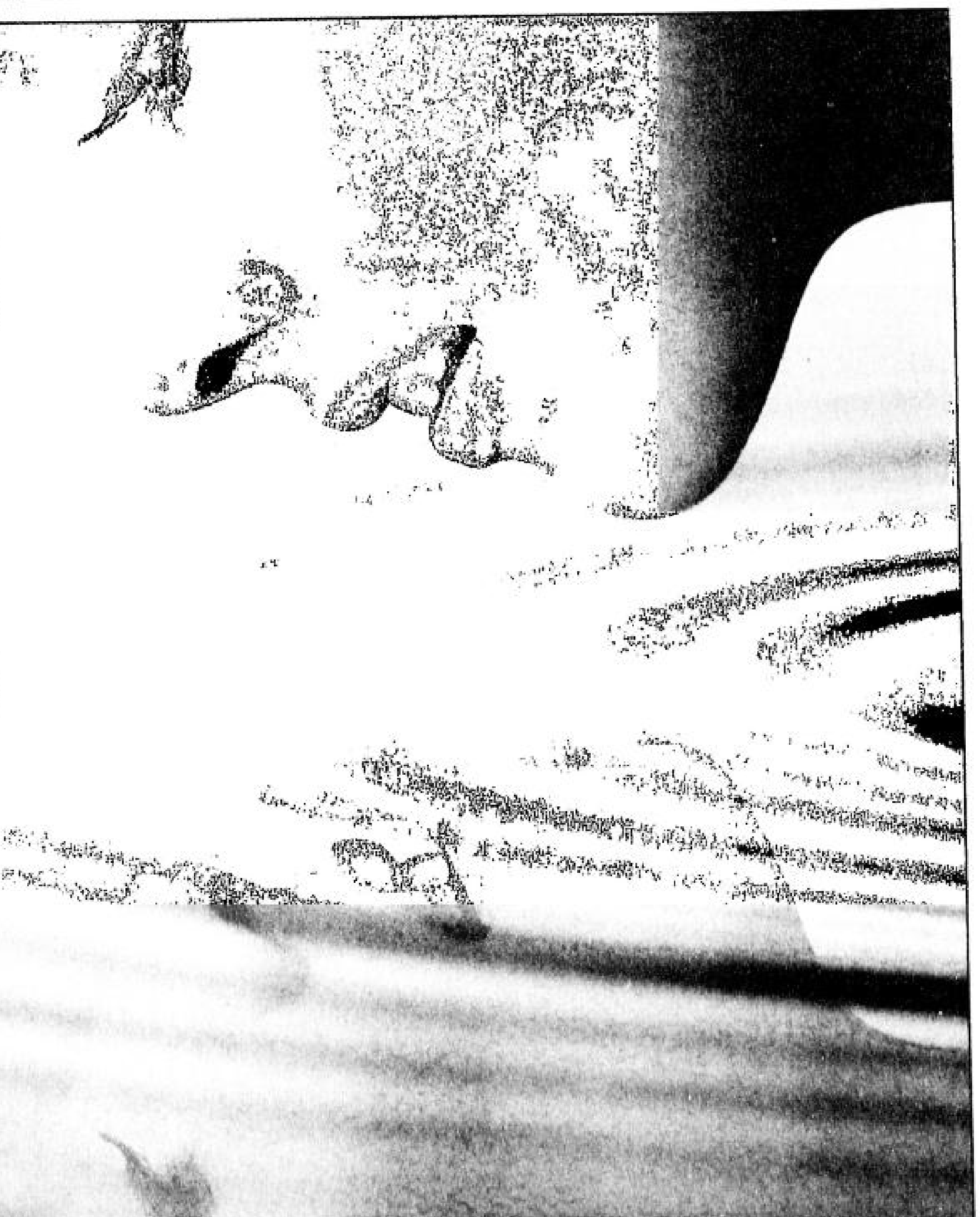

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By Michael Lim Ubac

AMID MOUNTING CLAMOR FOR HER TO cut short her term, President Macapagal-Arroyo was open to the idea of clipping her powers to pave the way for a "French-style parliamentary system" to replace the current presidential form of government, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

Ms Arroyo had met secretly on Monday with De Venecia and former President Fidel V. Ramos, the top two leaders of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, at an undisclosed place in Makati City.

De Venecia is Lakas president while President Arroyo and Ramos are the national chair and chair emeritus, respectively, of Lakas.

The three party leaders discussed ways to sped up Charter reforms to pave the way for the country's shift to a parliamentary system, its first parliamentary elections in mid-2007 and "constructing together a reform agenda," said De Venecia.

Under the French system, a president acts as the symbolic head of state but the day-to-day affairs of the government are run by the prime minister.

De Venecia acknowledged that the meeting was crucial amid a "continuing political agitation for the President to cut short her term" even after "she survived a grueling impeachment battle last September."

During the meeting, De Venecia said they had agreed that the shift was "absolutely necessary" for Filipinos to "reduce the destructive, poisonous and negative politics" and propel the country's economic development.

But congressional sources said the shift would affect Ms Arroyo's powers as President.

"That's a natural consequence. The President knew that it's inevitable," said a senior Lakas leader who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another Lakas member said: "Of course, the constituent assembly will determine (Ms Arroyo's fate). That's unspoken. It has powers to determine the transitory provisions, subject to the ratification by the people through a plebiscite."

Although the committee report calling for Charter reform has yet to be sponsored on the floor of Congress, De Venecia said Charter reform would be completed by 2006 "as scheduled."

According to him, the party leadership would recommend that the President's term of office "shall continue and will not be disturbed," although her transitory powers would be decided by the constituent assembly.

Lakas-CMD Reps. Exequiel Javier (Antique) and Mauricio Domogan (Baguio City), both vice chair of the House committee on Constitutional amendments, said that proposals to cut the President and Vice President's terms would be "but a transitory provision" of the entire proposed package of constitutional reforms. *With Philip C. Tubeza*

Egnar; 80

LEONARDO ABELLO EGNAR OF MALAYbalay, Bukidnon, died Nov. 2, after a lingering illness. He is survived by his wife, Iluminada, children Linda, Leonil, Noame, Grace, Leonardo Jr., Leopoldo, Louis and Atilano. His body lies at the Egnar residence. Interment will be on Saturday in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

CHEd chief, execs clash over bidding of P130-M project

By Alcuin Papa

TWO HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE Commission on Higher Education claim that the CHEd's acting chair, Dr. Carlito Puno, has "derailed" the bidding for a P130 million project to favor his own "preferred" contractor.

The two officials, who asked not to be named, said Puno has been exerting pressure on the CHEd's bidding and awards committee (BAC) that is handling the procurement process for the Higher Education Development Center project inside the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines.

They said Puno had sent a letter to the BAC last Oct. 24 and threatened to file charges against BAC members for allegedly not complying with the provisions of the Procurement Law in the building of the center.

The CHEd officials, who are members of the BAC, also alleged that Puno wanted to award the contract for the project to a contractor, identified as C.B. Garay Philwide Builders.

But Puno, in a phone interview, said the intention of his memo to the BAC was to protect the commission from violations of government bidding processes.

He said one of the bidders had written to him claiming that the BAC was not following procurement procedures.

Puno also denied that he was favoring any of the bidders for the P130 million project.

Among the concerns raised by Puno were the alleged failure to undertake detailed engineering investigations, surveys and designs; failure to obtain approval of the budget for the contract and other technical matters.

Puno gave the BAC members 48 hours to explain why no administrative charges should be filed against them, stressing that the "accountability and integrity" of the CHEd was at stake.

He also said his memo had the concurrence of the four other CHEd commissioners who wanted to determine if there had been any irregularity in the bidding process.

Correction

IN THE OCT. 23 issue, a caption on Page D2 of the Sunday Lifestyle section mistakenly identified the woman at right. She is Marcia Sandoval, not Marcia Rodriguez.

* * *

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Wrong guy, intel man says of terror suspect

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE "ABU TAGALOG" ARRESTed in Baguio City on Saturday is most likely not the same "Abu Tagalog" wanted by the police for taking part in the 2001 Dos Palmas kidnappings, an intelligence officer at the Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame said yesterday.

The officer, who spoke on condition he would not be quoted by name, said the PNP intelligence community in Camp Crame had no derogatory information against Amil Salih, also known as "Abu Tagalog," who was arrested by a joint team of Metro Manila and Baguio City police on kidnapping charges in the Dos Palmas case.

Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police, confirmed Salih's arrest and said he was standing by the informant who had led police to Salih. He dismissed the intelligence officer's assessment.

"We have an informer who pointed to Salih as the 'Abu Tagalog' who is the subject of an arrest warrant," Querol said. "We'll present him in court. We'll bring him to Basilan, where the arrest warrant was issued."

The intelligence officer said "Abu Tagalog" was a "generic name" or a common alias, and police were looking for at least two more "Abu Tagalogs" linked to the Abu Sayyaf and the Dos Palmas kidnapping.

"He might not be the one, and most likely he is not" the same "Abu Tagalog," the intelligence officer said of Salih.

"What I understand is that when he (Salih) was booked, he signed his name as 'Abu Tagalog,'" the officer said. "An informant also pointed to him as 'Abu Tagalog,' which might be the basis for his detention. But so far, he has no (derogatory) record with us."

Bedejim Abdullah, a Baguio-based Islamic scholar, had said earlier that Salih, a native of Basilan, had been living in Baguio since 1997. He was a volunteer kitchen helper at the local Almaarif Educational Center, the largest Islamic institute in Northern Luzon.

A man identified only as Mario, a plumber at the same Islamic school, was arrested with Salih, according to reports.

The intelligence officer said one "Abu Tagalog" had already been arrested in October 2002 in Maharlika Village, Taguig. Tagged as an Abu Sayyaf member, this man was identified as Mark Gumbahali and was charged along with Khadaffy Janjalani and several other suspected ASG members in the abduction of Filipino and foreign tourists from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Around 20 heavily armed men snatched 20 persons, including American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, from the Dos Palmas resort in May 2001. The hostages were brought to Basilan, where some of them were beheaded, including American tourist Guillermo Sobero.

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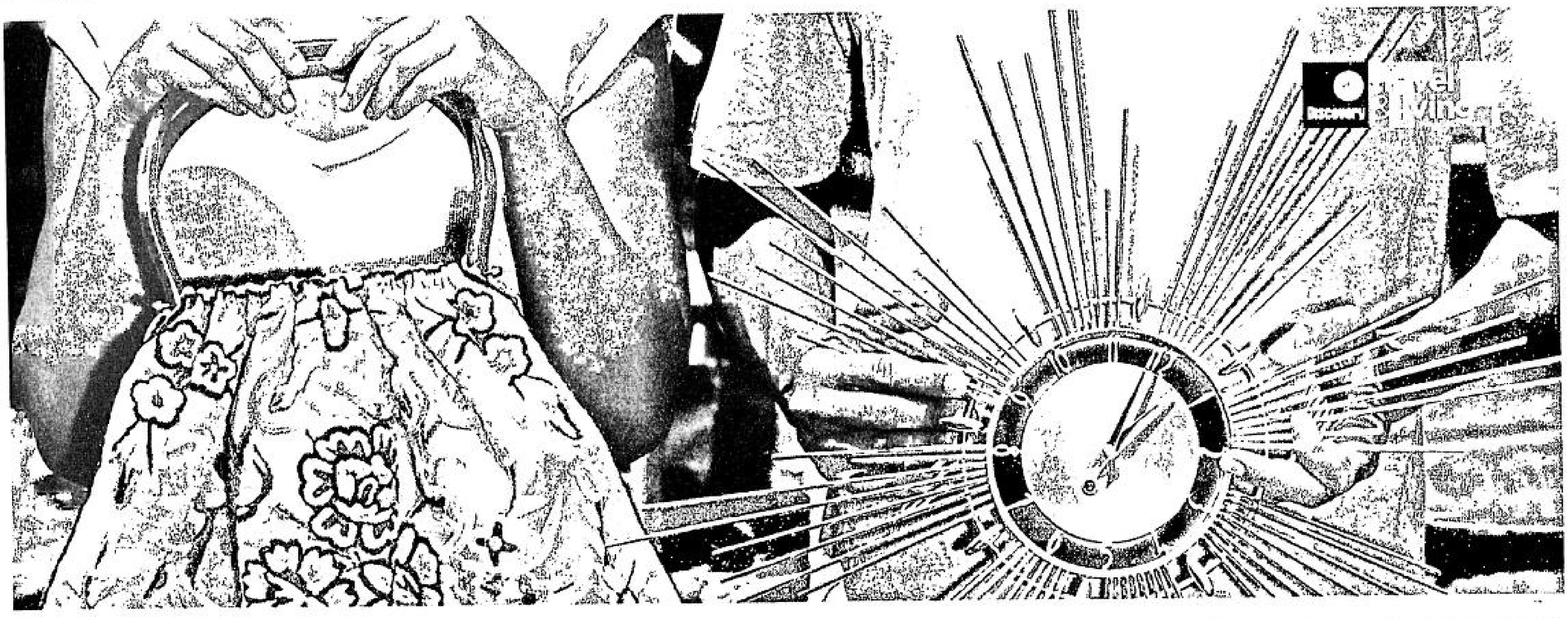

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Bunye: GMA report on Babao not off the record

From page A1

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Ms Arroyo was being petty when she zeroed in on the broadcaster. "Mababao ang kaligayahan ni GMA," he said, resorting to a pun. "Why Babao? Why not the judge or the prosecutor who allowed bail? Maybe their evidence [against Santos] is weak."

JI ties

The RSM, founded by Santos' captured elder brother Hilarion "Ahmad" Santos, is said to be connected with the regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah.

Both Babao and ABS-CBN had denied that he posted bail for Santos. But the network announced an internal investigation of the case.

Babao arrived late Tuesday from Hong Kong, where he had been on vacation.

A source at the airport said he was on board Philippine Airlines flight PR 311, which landed at around 11 p.m.

Appearing yesterday on ABS-CBN's early evening newscast, Babao said he was willing to go on leave for the duration of the investigation.

Speaking carefully

Malacañang spoke carefully on the Babao case, with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita leaving it to the AFP to do the talking.

While noting that the allegation against Babao was "very serious," Ermita said the government was not investigating him.

"No, I don't know of any such action of investigating [Babao]," Ermita told reporters at his weekly news conference. "I don't know of any instruction, not through me or from the President, to continue with the investigation."

Ermita advised reporters to interview military officials and "double check" with Babao himself.

"If I were Mr. Babao, I'll try to make a clean [breast] of the whole thing," Ermita also said.

"Whatever comes out, at least he can correct it if it's not accurate, or he can say something about it, on why he did certain actions."

Ermita said he had been told of the Isafp report on Babao but that he did not want to divulge it to the media lest wrong conclusions be made.

"I would rather disassociate myself from that story and let you get it directly from [AFP general headquarters]," he said, adding that the case of Babao was an "operational matter."

No direct proof

But the AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J-2) admitted that the military had no direct proof that Babao had bailed out Santos.

"It's circumstantial [evidence]," Rear Adm. Tirso Danga said at a news conference, reiterating the earlier statement of a military official who requested anonymity.

It was Danga's first time to face the media since the report on the President's disclosure to Tulfo regarding Babao was published by the INQUIRER.

Ms Arroyo had based her disclosure on Danga's intelligence report that was prepared by the Isafp.

"We are not saying that Julius Babao categorically posted the bail. But we will cite to you the facts regarding the circumstances by which his name was implicated," said Danga, who was flanked by two Isafp officers during the news conference.

The Isafp officers cited Babao's presence during the bail hearing when Santos unexpectedly produced P200,000 in cash for his bail, and the fact that an ABS-CBN van took the latter away after he was released from military detention.

'A good picture'

According to Isafp legal counsel Maj. Serme Ayuyao, Santos was suddenly able to produce the cash for his bail when minutes earlier, his lawyer was pleading with the judge to reduce the bail because Santos was jobless.

"I believe that money came from someone inside the courtroom," Ayuyao said. "I'm not categorically saying it was Julius Babao. I'm stating the facts."

Isafp operations officer Lt. Commander Teddy Quinzon recalled how Santos was whisked off from Camp Aguinaldo in an ABS-CBN van when he was released on April 26.

Danga said he immediately submitted an intelligence report to the President, stating these observations.

"What we submitted is an intelligence report that does not need to be 100 percent true. Some reports cannot be made evidence in court, but they are important because they give us a good picture of what's happening," he said.

Asked if Babao actually gave the money, Danga replied: "It's circumstantial.

"What we're trying to say is, here's a suspected terrorist who is wanted in several incidents that killed several lives. We even feel that some media personalities are giving them comfort."

Guarantor of bail bond?

Asked whether media coverage of captured terror suspects was being viewed as "giving comfort," Danga shot back: *"Ano naman ang ginawa ng isang kasamahan nyo* (And what did a colleague of yours do)?"

Babao used his influence to help convince a surety firm to guarantee Santos' bail bond, according to a source privy to the transaction.

The source said Summit Guarantee and Insurance Corp. was initially reluctant to take on Santos' case.

"Julius Babao was asking when Dawud could leave jail," the source said, adding:

"He was told that there was a problem, and that the bond firm was reluctant to help. So he spoke to the bondswoman on the phone, and that was it—the bond company accepted [Santos'] case."

"There was no doubt that Julius was able to help because of his stature as a media personality."

The source said the premium paid was around P30,000. He asked not to be named, fearing persecution.

The INQUIRER reached Summit on the phone, but a staff member said the person in charge of the Santos case had not yet arrived.

Another staff member apologized and said he and the others were told not to disclose information on the Santos case to the media.

Antiterror bill

According to Danga, the country needs an antiterror law that does not allow captured terror suspects to post bail.

Another opposition senator, Panfilo Lacson, said Ms Arroyo has no one but herself to blame for Santos' being able to post bail.

"Had she seriously pushed Congress to pass my antiterror bill way back in 2001 and again in 2004, there was no way Santos would have been granted bail by any judge and under any circumstances, terrorism being a nonbailable offense," Lacson said.

The senator had expressed plans to withdraw as author of the antiterror bill in the Senate, for fear it would be used by the administration against Ms Arroyo's political foes.

"Whether it's Babao or Tiongco or anybody else [who provided the bail money] is of no moment. Santos could have posted bail anyway," Lacson said.

Babao had earlier named audio expert Jonathan Tiongco as providing the bail for Santos; he had said he only "connected" the two men.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor presented Tiongco in August in an effort to show that the "Hello, Garci" tapes had been doctored.

'Non-issue'

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon told reporters that it was not against the law to provide bail for anyone.

"Whoever gave the bail, to me, is a non-issue because bail is perfectly legal under our laws if the offense is bailable," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan echoed this observation.

"Assuming [Babao posted bail for Santos], no, it is not a crime," he said in a text message.

Pangilinan also said he would believe Babao if the latter would deny posting bail for Santos.

"Having worked with Julius Babao in ABS-CBN newsroom for nearly a decade, I have no reason to doubt his integrity and his professionalism as a broadcast journalist," Pangilinan said, adding:

"I wish I could say the same about the integrity and professionalism of the Isafp, especially after being embroiled in the 'Hello, Garci' wiretapping scandal."

Too frugal

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said Babao was "too frugal to the point of stinginess," and paying bail for Santos would be "against his nature."

Remulla had a chance to work with Babao during his stint in ABS-CBN as a field reporter in 1993-2000.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security stressed that Babao's case was a matter internal to ABS-CBN.

"I leave this to the media organization. Is it ethical? Is it professional? And of course, there would be a question raised on the motive. But if the motive is purely humanitarian, why not? It is provided for by law," he said.

He also said the controversy only highlighted the need for Congress to pass the antiterror bill "as soon as possible."

Getting the story

The lawyer who facilitated the bail said Babao's only interest in Santos was to get the story.

"The way I understand it, he (Babao) wanted mileage. He was after the news, to [get it first] before the other networks did," Nicomedes Martelino told the INQUIRER.

Martelino said that as far as he knew, Babao had no part in raising the bail money, did not serve as a guarantor, and did not use his influence to secure the bond firm's cooperation in getting Santos out of jail.

The lawyer also denied reports that Santos had disappeared: "He has not jumped bail. He has been attending his hearings. If fact, we have a hearing tomorrow in Tarlac. But I don't know if it will push through, tomorrow being the end of Ramadan."

"Now he fears for his life," Martelino said, adding that military officials were "drumming up this terrorism charge because they want the antiterror bill passed." *Reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christine O. Avendaño, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Luige A. del Puerto, TJ Burgonio, Nikko Dizon and Michael Lim Ubac*

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2 experts say Bush losing war on terrorism

From page A1

missteps since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America.

The Bush administration presents the war on terrorism as a difficult but largely successful struggle that has seen the gutting of al-Qaida's pre-Sept. 11 leadership and prevented new attacks in the United States over the past four years.

Bush said last month the United States and its allies had disrupted plans for 10 al-Qaida attacks since Sept. 11, including one that involved using hijacked planes against West Coast targets.

The White House describes Iraq as a central front in the war on terrorism and says the building of democracy there will confound militant aims and help to propel the entire Middle East region toward democracy.

Benjamin and Simon's criticism of the Bush administration in Iraq follows a path similar to those of other critics, including former US National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and former White House counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke.

Energize jihad

"We may be attacked by terrorists who receive their training in Iraq, or attacked by terrorists who were inspired, organized and trained by people who were in Iraq," says Simon, a Rand Corp. analyst who teaches at Georgetown University.

"(Bush) has given them an excellent American target in Iraq but in the process has energized the jihad and given militants the kind of urban warfare experience that will raise the future threat to the United States exponentially."

For Benjamin and Simon, the war on terrorism has cost American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars but has failed to counter a deadly global movement responsible for attacks in London, Madrid, Bali, Indonesia and Egypt.

And not even al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, according to the two experts, could have dreamed the United States would stumble so badly in the court of Muslim public opinion.

"Everyone says there's a war of ideas out there, and I agree. The sad fact is that we're on the wrong side," says Benjamin, now a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Challenging steps

US fortunes could improve, the authors say, if Washington took a number of politically challenging steps, like bolstering public diplomacy with trade pacts aimed at expanding middle-class influence in countries such as Pakistan.

Washington also needs to do more to ease regional tensions that feed Muslim grievances across the globe, from Thailand and the Philippines to Chechnya and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In a Muslim world of 1.2 billion people, as many as 75 percent hold negative views of the United States.

Because anti-US rhetoric often appeals strongly to impressionable youth, Benjamin and Simon believe many of today's young Muslims will harbor grievances against the United States for the rest of their lives.

The authors believe there is little prospect for fundamental improvement in US policy under Bush.

"There are resource constraints, there are constraints in the realm of trade, there are political constraints," says Simon.

"These are not the kinds of circumstances that favor bold new policies that require spending political capital that it turns out the White House just doesn't have," he adds. *Reuters*

Muslims end monthlong fast, party

From page A1

lage's Blue Mosque.

Festivities

In Mindanao, the International Monitoring Team, headed by Malaysian Gen. Saimu Abbas will sponsor the "kanduli" (festive gathering) of food in Cotabato City for "success of the peace process."

Some 50,000 faithful will gather for the early morning prayers at the City Plaza.

In Marawi City, the Mindanao State University stadium grounds will host 20,000 Muslims. At the town proper, the Jamiatul Muslim Islamic Center mosque, largest in the province, will welcome 7,000-10,000 people.

In Simunul Island, Tawi-Tawi, traditional games and sports will accompany the festivities.

Muslims, even their children, in their native or formal attire with their prayer mats will converge in major prayer areas for the required prayers.

Outreach activities will also be conducted for the needy. In Manila, the Young Moro Professionals Network will visit the Muslim women detainees in Camp Bagong Diwa to offer toiletries and food.

In Marawi City, the Inspired Youth Optimist's Guild delivered gifts and goods to displaced people at Camp Omaira Hospital.

Themes for the congregational sermons will focus on forgiveness, family and worship.

Ulamas will lead prayers as early as 5 a.m. for one hour.

Then families who have not given charity will distribute their zakat to the poor and needy, sometimes in the form of sacks of rice. They then proceed to their homes or their relatives who will host a festive family gathering.

5 pillars of Islam

Eid'l Fitr is the first major Islamic holiday observed in the Muslim world.

The five pillars of Islam include fasting, declaration of Shahada (that Allah is God and Muhammad is His Messenger), charity, prayer and pilgrimage.

In this year's celebrations, hopes are high for the peace process.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has issued a message calling for a "just, genuine and lasting peace in the Bangsamoro homeland in war-torn Mindanao."

'Martyr' mayor

Also yesterday, Mayor Saidona Pendatun of SK Pendatun town in Maguindanao died of heat stroke in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, while performing Umrah, an optional pilgrimage.

Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr., who heads the provincial delegation of Umrah to Mecca, said Pendatun, 60, was rushed to the Jeddah Medical Center on Sunday when he fell dizzy and became unconscious while performing the ritual.

Ampatuan, who was at the mayor's hospital bed until his death, said Muslim scholars had considered the mayor a martyr because he was fasting and doing religious duties at the time of his death.

PNP grooming psychiatrist as spokesperson

From page A1

Women comprise only 7.7 percent of the police force. None has reached the top.

It therefore came as a pleasant surprise when the PNP appointed Salangad as its deputy spokesperson, with the intention of making her the head of the Public Information Office if she likes the job and if her superiors decide she is fit for it.

Salangad was born to Dionisio and Felicidad Dumaguin on April 13, 1958 in San Fernando, La Union.

Her father was a guerrilla during World War II, was wounded, and was awarded the Purple Heart. After the war, he worked briefly as a town constable, and later as a security officer in a local bank.

Salangad, thus, grew up in a house where policemen and soldiers were deemed as liberators, or at the very least, as "respectable persons in the community."

Respect for uniform

Respect for men in uniform deepened when Salangad saw, during a fire that gutted her home, how firemen, some of them Americans, took great care of her family when they noticed her father's war medal lying among the ruins. Only a Grade 6 student, that scene would leave a lasting impression on her mind.

But as a child and teenager, joining the police or military was "farthest from her mind," she says.

Salangad had always wanted to become a physician, and pursued her interest relentlessly. She graduated cum laude at the University of the East in 1977, took up medicine in Far Eastern University in 1981, and went on to specialize in psychiatry in 1987.

She practiced at the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City until 1990, when the PNP recruited her to head the neuro-psychiatric unit of the Camp Crame general hospital.

Entering the force as a major, Salangad immediately saw how macho the organization was. She remembers with a chuckle how, in her first few weeks, policemen would attempt to flirt with her.

"They were very much aware that I was married, and the other officers were married. They'd set you up, it was irritating." At the time, she and husband Bernardito, a businessman, already had their first daughter, Jairus, now a psychology student in the University of the Philippines who also wants to be a doctor.

In the next few years, Salangad would routinely interview hundreds of men and women either trying to enter the police service or get a promotion to evaluate their fitness.

Debriefing trauma cases

She would also counsel or debrief officers suffering from trauma, such as those who were taken captive by communist rebels, or from alcohol addiction. She is also currently chief of the Region 1 Police's medical services.

Male officers who'd try to put her down would have to think twice. As a police psychiatrist, she can be considered an expert of the macho psyche.

She does not carry a gun—some say the extension of a man's ego—to work though, unless necessary.

Her being a policewoman never went in the way of having a family life. There were times when she had to bring Jairus to work, and she'd tell a client "to pretend that my daughter is not around." She and Bernardito would later have another child, Bienvida, now a Grade 6 student.

Thinking about her career options one day, she imagined herself speaking for the police, and brought up the idea to Director General Arturo Lomibao, the PNP chief. Soon enough, she found herself inside a small cubicle inside the Public Information Office.

Are women capable?

Does she think that women are capable of doing work traditionally done by men?

The Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine National Police Academy have already opened their doors to women, she points out.

"Women are as capable as men. That has been recognized ... by the opening of the academy to women," she says. Condoleezza Rice is the national security adviser of the United States, she adds.

"I'm enjoying myself so far," she says. For the last several weeks, she has been trying to absorb and learn as much as she could from Bataoil's press briefings.

Gender sensitive

With an image that needs rescuing, there is no doubt that this woman officer will offer a fresh face to a cynical public, a feminine whiff to a job that in a media-obsessed society, is increasingly becoming more and more important.

Can she, for one, do a better job explaining the policy of calibrated preemptive response? Will she be as combative when talking about the leftist forces?

The INQUIRER asked Bataoil why a woman? "If she could do the job, why not? The police would not like to be sexist. We would like to be gender-sensitive."

₱ at 5-mo high; stocks up

From page A1

will generate jobs and increase economic activity," Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said.

The peso closed at 54.72 against the US dollar, gaining 22 centavos from Friday's 54.94. It was the local currency's strongest finish in nearly five months.

Surging past the 2,000-point mark, the main Philippine Stock Exchange Index (Phisix) gained 46.9 points or 2.4 percent to a three-month high. It closed at 2007.12 on turnover of 1 billion shares worth P1.2 billion.

Remittances

The peso was also boosted by the spike in remittances by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) ahead of the Christmas season and the central bank's previous action of raising key interest rates to their highest levels in three years.

"The offshore (market) is quite bullish on the peso because of the VAT and because there are no more snags in its implementation," said Marcelo Ayes, chief foreign exchange trader at Equitable PCIBank.

As the country heads to another long weekend (in deference to the end of Ramadan), Ayes said more remittances by OFWs were expected to build up thereby supporting the peso even as the US dollar was being boosted by a further rise in interest rates.

The US Federal Reserve yesterday raised its key interest rate by another 25 basis points to 4 percent. Its series of rate increases since last year has prompted offshore markets like the Philippines to raise their own rates to preserve the attractiveness of their currencies.

Firms to pass on costs

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the Federal Reserve's action was expected. "Our next assessment will take this into account together with other related factors like liquidity growth and possible second-round effects," he said.

The expanded VAT may be met with protests but it shows how serious the government is in cutting its fiscal deficit, Jojo Gonzales, president of the Philippine Equity Partners Inc., said.

"It may be negative on a micro level but positive on a macro scale," Gonzales said.

He said companies were not expected to take a big hit from the tax because they would just pass on most of their costs to consumers.

PRESIDENT Arroyo presides over the meeting of the National Security Council and the National Economic Development Authority on Wednesday. From left, Secretaries Joseph Durano, tourism; Raphael Lotilla, energy; Hermogenes Ebdane, public works; Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita; Neda Director General Augusto Santos and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. LYN RILLON

"We don't expect (profit) margins to be squeezed but it may undermine demand. There will be pressure on the government to dilute the VAT but if government holds its ground, it may make the deficit more manageable," Gonzales said.

Favorable evaluation

The Department of Finance noted the expanded VAT had already perked up the country's credit standing, with foreign investment banks giving a favorable evaluation of Philippine-issued debt papers.

The DOF cited the "overweight" evaluation by Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley on debt instruments issued by the Philippine government.

An "overweight" evaluation means the investment bank is suggesting that investors buy Philippine debt papers on the secondary market because of a favorable fiscal outlook.

The finance department quoted Merrill Lynch as saying that the fiscal outlook for the Philippines appeared stronger in 2006 and in the medium term, and that the government should be able to bring down the level of public debt.

The country's credit rating was downgraded early this year by major credit rating agencies partly because of the uncertainty of the expanded VAT's implementation.

The tax measure is estimated to generate between P4 billion and P5 billion in the remaining months of the year, and P81.4 billion annually starting next year. The tax rate will be raised from 10 to 12 percent starting Jan. 1, 2006.

Phisix to include 5 new firms

With revenues from the new VAT law, the government is expected to trim down its budget deficit next year to P124.9 billion, or 2.1 percent of gross domestic product. This year, the deficit is expected at P180 billion, or 3.4 percent of GDP.

At the stock exchange, gainers overwhelmed losers 63 to 14, with 34 stocks unchanged.

News of new companies to be added to the PSE composite index by December may have also bolstered the market's gains, said Erwin Balita, research analyst at AB Capital Securities.

Five companies will be added to the Phisix, the main barometer of stock market activity, starting Dec. 1.

The additions to the 30-company index are Banco De Oro Universal Bank, SM Investments Corp. (both controlled by mall magnate Henry Sy), Manila Water Co. of the Ayala group, Pilipino Telephone Corp. of the PLDT group, and Philex Mining Corp.

To be dropped from the list are liquor maker Ginebra San Miguel Inc., electronics maker Ionics Circuits Inc., holding firm JG Summit Holdings Inc. (of the John Gokongwei group), semiconductors maker Music Corp., and semi-government Philippine National Bank.

Criteria

Some of the criteria for inclusion in the Phisix are liquidity—the average daily value of peso trades of not less than P5 million; tradability—being traded 95 percent of the total trading days within the period covered; and market capitalization—the ranking of the company based on the value of its outstanding or issued shares at the prevailing market prices.

The Philippine Stock Exchange last reviewed the index composition in 2001, when it adopted a less stringent set of standards because of sluggish market activity.

Palace: It's time Congress enacted wage increase

From page A1

Surprisingly, businessmen, who are usually against any wage increase, have also warmed up to a legislated wage increase as long as it is reasonable.

Businessman Raul Concepcion said the increase should probably be given by the middle of next month or January next year.

Fast-tracking wage hikes

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita noted that the last time Congress legislated a wage increase was in 1989.

"Any increase in salary can be legislated anytime. That is the relevance of our representatives in both chambers of Congress," Ermita said.

He noted that only a congressional action would speed up a wage increase because the regional wage boards could only raise salaries once in 12 months (the latest wage adjustments in the country's 15 regions were made in June and July).

If Congress passed a measure raising the minimum wages, Ermita said President Macapagal-Arroyo would endorse it.

"If possible why not? Malacañang will always support that. A President like President Arroyo always wants to help her constituents uplift their lives. But all these things must be done within the legal process," he said.

The minimum wage in Metro Manila is currently pegged at P288 to P325 a day, the highest among the regions. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has the lowest daily minimum wage rate at P180.

The National Wage and Productivity Commission said a family of six in Metro Manila would need P681 a day in September.

2 pending bills

Labor unions have demanded a P125-a-day increase over the past five years but they themselves feel that this amount was not enough to meet the increasing cost of living.

Two bills are pending in Congress seeking a P125 daily across-the-board increase for workers in the private sector—House Bill No. 345 filed by Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Roseller Barinaga and HB 1063 by Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran.

Some businessmen are open to a legislated wage hike.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce, said his group was willing to discuss a minimum wage increase for the "sake of the masses who were clearly suffering from the high prices brought about by the expanded VAT."

Impact on prices

Concepcion, chair of Concepcion Industries, said any wage increase should be based on the inflation rate and should take into consideration the adjustments granted by each of the regional wage boards.

"It should not be a knee-jerk reaction and we must determine the actual impact on prices," Concepcion, also chair of the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, told the INQUIRER.

He said the country's biggest business groups had agreed to consult with Congress to arrive at a consensus on the wage increase.

Concepcion said he preferred an adjustment in the minimum wage rates to an increase in allowances.

Exempt SMEs

He also suggested that the minimum wage increase cover only big corporations and exempt small-to-medium enterprises that might not be able to cope with higher labor costs.

But the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) cautioned against moving too quickly on a wage hike before ascertaining the impact of the VAT.

"I hope that wages will not be politicized otherwise our competitiveness will be seriously affected," PCCI president Donald Dee said.

Dee said the expanded VAT would not have a significant impact on the inflation rate.

TUCP for tax exemptions

While Malacañang and businessmen are receptive to a wage increase, the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines is not.

TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said that given today's economic conditions it was "more logical" for the group to ask for tax exemptions than to call for another round of wage increases.

He said bigger tax exemptions would shield workers from the increase in prices of commodities caused by the expanded VAT.

Aguilar said the TUCP was reviving its proposal that those earning P15,000 and below a month be exempted from paying income tax. This, he said, would improve workers' take-home pay by as much as 10 percent.

"The resulting 10-percent increase in take-home pay will partially recoup the lost purchasing power brought by the expanded VAT," he said.

But Aguilar said the TUCP would push for new wage adjustments if the inflation rate rose to at least 10 percent.

Besides tax breaks, the militant Partido Manggagawa (PM) wants a new round of wage increases to "to mitigate the deleterious effects of the expanded VAT."

PM Rep. Renato Magtubo said the overall inflationary effect of the new tax on workers was equivalent to more than a day's wage.

About P428 per month would be levied on workers due to higher prices of goods and services, according to Magtubo.

Customs 'open-drawer' habit to be nailed shut

From page A1

"nailed shut."

'Drop boxes'

There is long-entrenched problem of table drawers at the Bureau of Customs (BOC) being used as "drop boxes of extra income," Arevalo, a soldier-turned-tariff collector, admitted in a recent House appropriations committee hearing.

Nail down the drawers was Arevalo's solution as it would be too expensive to replace the tables of all 5,215 BOC personnel with customized tables with transparent drawers.

Arevalo told congressmen that he would "permanently lock the drawers of personnel from the security guards, janitors, clerks all the way up to high-ranking officials."

"We are aware of the 'open drawer' problems. We are thinking of providing transparent desks but this would cost much money. What we would do is assign a group to go port to port to nail the drawers shut so these remain locked and closed permanently," Arevalo said.

'Martilyo Gang'

Camarines Sur. Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., the committee chair, quipped that Arevalo's plan was "the Martilyo Gang solution" to corruption at the BOC.

Representatives Ferjenel Biron (Iloilo), Vincent Crisologo (Quezon City) and Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental) complained of red tape before cargoes are released by customs personnel.

Crisologo complained about "the too many signatures needed, including that of the security guard's to bring, say, a golf club" out of the customs zone.

Red tape

Biron said a foreigner friend of his had to go through the ordeal of dropping "something into the open drawers of customs personnel to get the papers moving."

Arevalo, a retired colonel and an aide to former President Fidel Ramos, assured the committee that reforms were being undertaken to "fast-track the release of shipments from the ports."

He said corruption would be minimized and "efficiency increased" if there was no need for BOC officials to meet with importers face to face.

"If everything will be done online, for example, then there will be no need for those open drawers and the signatures of personnel," Arevalo said.

Andaya reminded everyone that the national government was counting on the BOC to collect P190.5 billion in duties and taxes next year, or 26 percent of the government tax collection target of P968 billion.

Collection shortfall

While it exceeded its 2004 target by P10 billion, the BOC posted a collection shortfall of P7.4 billion in the first eight months of the year, collecting only P91.2 billion, Andaya said.

The BOC has a full-year revenue target of P151 billion, Andaya added.

Arevalo, however, may be unable to finish all the hammering that's needed to be done at the bureau.

A Malacañang source told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that President Macapagal-Arroyo would announce a new customs commissioner this month because she was dissatisfied with Arevalo's performance, particularly the sharp fall in BOC tax collections.

PMA graduate

Arevalo, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, was tapped by Ms Arroyo to take over the BOC post vacated by Albert Lina, who resigned on July 8 along with other Cabinet secretaries now collectively known as the Hyatt 10.

UNDP may quit $12-M Samar project, clergy protests over logging …

From page A1

manager Jose Mabulay Jr. told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Mabulay said there had been "no formal notice" to the project managers yet on the pullout of UNDP funding, but "we hear rumblings in that direction."

The SIBP was meant to preserve the remaining lowland forests of Samar, which were threatened by *kaingin* and the indiscriminate harvest of timber and other forest products.

But in an order issued on Aug. 16, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor allowed the Enrile firm to harvest timber in a 95,770-hectare area covered by its timber license agreement in Samar.

The firm's timber licensing agreement (TLA) was also extended by another 16 years to make up for revenues it lost during the 16-year moratorium on logging in Samar, which, the DENR said, was "unjustified."

Not for harvest

Mabulay said a check with the SINP map would show that 90 percent of the TLA area was inside the nature park, where natural growth forests had recovered and now formed a canopy.

He said the plantations inside the nature park—which the DENR said the Enrile firm had a right to harvest—were not planted for harvesting but as replacement for the trees cut by the firm since its operations started in 1967.

Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro had said the DENR did not cancel the firm's TLA because the proclamation of protected areas respected prior rights to the territory.

He said the DENR also did not have the money to indemnify the firm if Enrile took the case to court.

"Senator Enrile is one of the country's best lawyers," Mabulay said. "If he felt he has been aggrieved, he would have taken this to court. But he waited until he was in the Commission on Appointments, where he endorsed the appointment of … Defensor before requesting this (logging) again. And this time he was successful."

Enrile bolted the opposition early this year to turn "independent."

No consultations

Mabulay said the DENR did not consult stakeholders in Samar before coming out with the decision allowing SJTC to log inside a protected area.

He said the DENR had assured them that consultations would be held before actual logging operations resume. "It must have been an afterthought," he said.

Samar, the Philippines' third largest island, is home to a third of all its bird species and is one of its 18 plant diversity centers.

Twelve endemic trees found on the island are included in the World List of Threatened Trees.

Howl of protest

In Eastern Samar, Bishop Medroso and the other clergy of Borongan took to the pulpit their stand against Defensor's order lifting the moratorium on logging.

The "collective howl of protest" was read during homilies on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, in the clergy's effort to make the flock aware of their stand.

"Once more, we are facing a serious challenge as residents of Samar Island and as a people of faith. We stand to systematically lose again our now flourishing forest cover because the logging moratorium that has saved it since 1989 has been lifted," said the statement signed by Medroso and 45 priests belonging to 25 parishes of the diocese.

"The circumstances that led to the lifting of the moratorium have not been transparent and the process was flawed," it said.

The clergy's next step is to come up with a united position with the neighboring dioceses on Samar Island—the Diocese of Calbayog in Samar and Diocese of Catarman in Northern Samar.

The order allowing the Enrile firm to resume operations lifted the logging moratorium on Samar, which was imposed by then President Corazon Aquino on Feb. 8, 1989, after floods and landslides killed nearly 100 persons and destroyed P100 million worth of crops.

Rapid forest destruction was blamed for the disaster.

Mockery

The clergy's statement pointed out that no consultation or public hearing was held prior to the lifting of the moratorium, which, it said, would affect not only the forest area conceded to the Enrile firm but also the lives of hundreds of thousands of Samareños.

It said the 95,770 hectares of timber concession to the firm lay at the heart of the 120,000 hectares of old-growth forest and critical watershed constituting the Samar Integrated Forest Reserve (SIFR) and the SINP.

"Now the resumption of commercial logging in these protected areas is to make a mockery of the purposes and goals of the SIFR and SINP," it added.

President Fidel Ramos signed Proclamation No. 744 on Feb. 20, 1996, declaring the rainforest in the provinces of Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar as a forest reserve. The SIFR covers a total area of 360,000 hectares.

On Aug. 13, 2003, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation No. 442, declaring the SIFR as protected area under the category of a natural park.

The proclamation intends to conserve the remaining forests, plants and animals in the area as well as protect the ecological balance and ensure continued provisions for the population on the island.

It covers 37 municipalities and one city in the Samar provinces.

Justice

According to the statement of the Borongan Diocese, justice for the Enrile firm was purportedly raised for the lifting of the moratorium.

But the statement said it was so easy to see justice in regard to oneself and to miss justice in regard to others.

"Given the history of logging and mining exploitation in Samar, which have only showcased our gross social inequality and massive poverty, justice truly dictates that the natural wealth of Samar Island benefit Samar's poor and not end up in the hands of the already wealthy few," it said. *With a report from Cyrain Cabueñas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US Senate holds rare secret session on spy scandal

WASHINGTON—THE US SENATE held a rare secret session Tuesday to discuss a scandal that led to the resignation of a top White House aide last week and now-discredited intelligence used to justify the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The two-hour secret session came at the demand of opposition Democrats, who said the closed-door debate was necessary to allow a full discussion on alleged manipulation of prewar intelligence by President George W. Bush's administration.

Democrats used a rare parliamentary maneuver to force lawmakers to discuss the issue on the Senate floor—a move that infuriated majority of Republicans.

Senator Bill Frist, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, dismissed the move as "a pure stunt" by Democrats intended to cause political chaos.

Frist said the move to invoke the rarely used "Rule 21" allowing for secret debate on the Senate floor was "unprecedented" in recent history, and accused Democrats of hijacking the US legislature.

Democrats however said the session was necessary because the Senate's Intelligence Committee had failed to properly vet the national security implications of a CIA leak scandal, which led last week to the resignation of Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby.

The criminal charges against Libby followed a two-year investigation by a special prosecutor to find out who in the Bush administration leaked to reporters the name of a covert CIA agent whose husband was a prominent critic of intelligence used to justify the Iraq war.

After Democrats threatened to use the parliamentary maneuver repeatedly this week to force debate on the intelligence question, Republicans relented and said they would create a bipartisan task force that will issue a report by Nov. 14 on how best to complete the investigation.

Victorious Democrats crowed after the concessions by Republicans.

"After months and months of begging, cajoling, writing letters, we're finally going to be able to have phase two of the investigation regarding how the intelligence was used to lead us into the intractable war in Iraq," said a satisfied Democratic Leader Harry Reid after the session.

Reid said the illegal unmasking of secret agent Valerie Plame, as well as questionable efforts by the White House to make the case for going to war in Iraq, warranted thorough congressional scrutiny.

"Americans deserve a searching and comprehensive investigation about how the Bush administration brought this country to war," said Reid.

The Senate's committee on intelligence which is empowered to review US efforts making the case for war in Iraq completed a 500-plus report on intelligence failures in July 2004. *AFP*

Bush seeks $7.1-B fund for avian flu defense

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ASKED CONGRESS for $7.1 billion in emergency funding on Tuesday to prepare the United States for a feared avian-influenza pandemic by building stockpiles of drugs and vaccines and encouraging vaccine makers to modernize.

Bush's plan would also bolster efforts to globally monitor the disease.

"To respond to a pandemic we must have emergency plans in place in all 50 states, in every local community. We must ensure that all levels of government are ready to act to contain an outbreak," Bush said in a speech at the National Institutes of Health.

Congress did not immediately respond, but the Senate was scraping together $3.9 billion in an amendment to a spending bill.

The White House request includes $1.2 billion to make 20 million more doses of the current experimental vaccine against H5N1 avian influenza, $2.8 billion to accelerate new flu-vaccine technology and $1 billion to stockpile more antiviral drugs.

The H5N1 avian influenza has so far only infected 122 people and killed 62, but it has spread to poultry flocks across many parts of Asia and into Europe. It is making steady mutations that scientists say could allow it to spread easily from person to person and cause a catastrophic global pandemic.

"We really view this as a threat that cannot be addressed just within our borders. We see this as an international threat," Dr. Rajeev Venkayya, Special Assistant to the President for Biological Defense Policy, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Venkayya said the US plan was meant as an example to state and local governments and other countries.

Several groups said the requests were nowhere near enough, but praised Bush for making a start.

The plan, to be spelled out in detail on Wednesday by Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt, includes $251 million to help detect and contain outbreaks before they spread around the world.

Bush's request will add to the US supply of H5N1 vaccine, made experimentally by Chiron Corp., Sanofi-Aventis and others.

The vaccine would only provide partial protection against a pandemic strain of flu and would have to be reformulated to match whatever mutation eventually emerges—a process that would take months.

Scientists say a better way of making flu vaccines is years off, but they have pressed the government to make a start. The vaccine against annual flu does not protect against avian flu.

Only a few companies make flu vaccines and only two—Sanofi-Pasteur and MedImmune—make them in plants within the United States.

Recent shortfalls in influenza vaccine production have illustrated how tenuous the industry is. *Reuters*

Aussie PM warns of terrorist threat

CANBERRA—THE AUSTRALIAN government has received specific information about a terrorist threat on its soil and will rush an urgent amendment to antiterrorism laws through parliament to help counter it, Prime Minister John Howard said Wednesday.

"The government has received specific intelligence and police information this week which gives cause for serious concern about a potential terrorist threat," Howard told a news conference.

He refused to give any details about the information, saying only that the amendment to existing counterterrorism legislation would help the authorities deal with the threat.

The attorney general would introduce the amendment to parliament later Wednesday and the government would press for its approval through the evening before recalling the senate on Thursday to pass it into law, Howard said.

"The government is satisfied on the advice provided to it that the immediate passage of this bill would strengthen the [illegible] law enforcement agencies to effectively respond to this threat," he said.

"The government is acting against the background of the assessment of intelligence agencies that a terrorist attack in Australia is feasible and could well occur," he said, referring to a report by the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), which was presented to parliament on Tuesday.

"In ASIO's recently released annual report a warning is contained that specifically cites the threat of home-grown terrorism. ASIO also warned that attacks without warning are feasible," Howard said.

The amendment will add further grounds for listing militant organizations and "clarify that, in a prosecution for a terrorism offence, it is not necessary to identify a particular terrorist act," he said. *AFP*

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

November 3 (Thursday) **CARAGA MADYAW KARADJAO (THE BEST OF REGION 13) GRAND OPENING**

10:00am-3:00pm WOW CARAGA VIDEO PRESENTATION
4:00-5:00pm CARAGA STREET PARADE
5:00-6:00pm FORMAL OPENING PROGRAM
6:00-7:00pm COCKTAILS
6:00-8:00pm CARAGA MADYAW KARADJAO CULTURAL SHOW
8:00-10:00pm WOW CARAGA Video Presentation
PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Hinang Tu (The art of making metal trinkets for Manobo costumes and handicrafts)

November 4 - 5 BUTUAN CITY DAYS (Tuesday to Wednesday)

10:00-11:00am AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Butuan City Documentary
- Tax Incentives
- Butuan City Products

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Adolph's cocobeads (Various handicrafts made out of cocoshells)

11:00-12:00nn BUTUAN CITY CULTURAL SHOW (by the Butuan Balanghai Guild)
1:00-3:00pm AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Butuan City Documentary
- Tax Incentives
- Butuan City Products

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Adolph's cocobeads

3:00-4:00pm CARAGA: MADYAW KARADJAO CULTURAL SHOW
4:00-7:00pm AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Butuan City Documentary
- Tax Incentives
- Butuan City Products

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Adolph's cocobeads

7:00-9:00pm CARAGA: MADYAW KARADJAO CULTURAL SHOW
9:00-10:00pm PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Adolph's cocobeads

AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Butuan City Documentary
- Tax Incentives
- Butuan City Products

November 6-7 (Sunday to Monday) **SURIGAO CITY & SURIGAO DEL NORTE DAYS**

10:00-11:00am AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Surigao City & Surigao del Norte Documentaries

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- De Lara's agsam crafts (Fine bags, hairclips and fashion jewelries made of agsam vines abundant in Surigao del Sur)

11:00-12:00nn SURIGAO CITY & SURIGAO DEL NORTE CULTURAL SHOW
- Featuring the Bislig City & Caraga Folk Dancers

12:00-3:00pm AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Surigao City & Surigao del Norte Documentaries

1:00-3:00nn PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Adolph's cocoBeads

3:00-4:00pm CARAGA: MADYAW KARADJAO CULTURAL SHOW
4:00-7:00pm AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Surigao City & Surigao del Norte Documentaries

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Hinang Tu

7:00-9:00pm CARAGA: MADYAW KARADJAO CULTURAL SHOW
9:00-10:00pm PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- De Lara's agsam crafts

AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Surigao City & Surigao del Norte Documentaries

November 8-10 BISLIG CITY & SURIGAO DEL SUR DAYS (Tues to Thurs)

10:00-11:00am AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Bislig City & Surigao del Sur Documentaries

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- De Lara's agsam crafts

11:00-12:00nn BISLIG CITY & SURIGAO DEL SUR CULTURAL SHOW
- Bislig City Government Employees Singing Society (Nov. 8)
- Teatro Butuan (Nov. 9)
- Surigao del Sur Cultural Group (Nov. 10)

12:00-3:00pm AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Bislig City & Surigao del Sur Documentaries

1:00-3:00pm PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- De Lara's agsam crafts

3:00-4:00pm CARAGA: MADYAW KARADJAO CULTURAL SHOW
4:00-7:00pm AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Bislig City & Surigao del Sur Documentaries

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- De Lara's agsam crafts

7:00-9:00pm CARAGA: MADYAW KARADJAO CULTURAL SHOW
9:00-10:00pm PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- De Lara's agsam crafts

AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Bislig City & Surigao del Sur Documentaries

November 11-13 (Friday to Sunday) **AGUSAN DEL NORTE & AGUSAN DEL SUR DAYS**

10:00-11:00am AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Agusan del Norte & Agusan del Sur Documentaries

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Hinang Tu

11:00-12:00nn AGUSAN DEL NORTE & AGUSAN DEL SUR CULTURAL SHOW
- Yantaw Cultural Dance Troupe

12:00-3:00pm AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Agusan del Norte & Agusan del Sur Documentaries

1:00-3:00pm PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Hinang Tu

3:00-5:00pm CARAGA: MADYAW KARADJAO CULTURAL SHOW
5:00-7:00pm AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS
- Agusan del Norte & Agusan del Sur Documentaries

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
- Hinang Tu

7:00-9:00pm CARAGA: MADYAW KARADJAO CULTURAL SHOW

November 13 CLOSING CEREMONY
9:00-10.00pm

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WORLDBRIEFS

Al-Qaida escape

FORT BLISS, Texas—A man once considered a top al-Qaida operative in Southeast Asia escaped from a US-run detention facility in Afghanistan and cannot testify against the soldier who allegedly mistreated him, a defense lawyer involved in a prison abuse case said. Omar al-Farouq was one of Osama bin Laden's top lieutenants until Indonesian authorities captured him in the summer of 2002 and turned him over to the United States. A Pentagon official in Washington confirmed Tuesday evening that Al-Farouq escaped from a US detention facility in Bagram, Afghanistan, on July 10. *AP*

Mine disaster

BEIJING—A gas leak at an illegal coal mine in northern China suffocated 17 miners, the official Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday. The leak occurred Monday at the Fenhemao Coal Mine in Xinzhou city in Shanxi province, Xinhua said. Thirteen miners working underground in the Fenhemao mine when the gas leak happened were killed. Two miners in the neighboring Xiaosangou mine were also killed by the leak, and two of the six rescuers who went underground to help died, it said. The mine was operating without a valid business certificate and production permit, Xinhua said. An investigation was underway. *AP*

Holocaust Day

UNITED NATIONS—The UN General Assembly on Tuesday adopted a landmark resolution designating Jan. 27 as an annual commemoration day for victims of the Holocaust but some Muslim delegations complained it did not cover other human tragedies. The resolution, first proposed by Australia, Canada, Israel, Russia and the United States, was co-sponsored by 104 countries. It was passed by acclamation with no vote requested. Jan. 27 commemorates the liberation of the Nazi death camps in Europe in 1945. *AFP*

Car bombing

SRINAGAR, India—Five people including a suicide bomber were killed and more than a dozen people wounded Wednesday in a car bomb explosion in Indian Kashmir, police said. The explosion took place in the Nowgam area on the outskirts of the summer capital Srinagar. "We have five killed, including the suicide bomber," a police spokesperson said, adding that more than 12 people were wounded including five policemen. Islamic militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed immediately claimed the blast in a telephone call to local news agency Current News Service (CNS). *AFP*

Roadside bomb

BAGHDAD—A roadside bomb aimed at a US military convoy in Iraq's Triangle of Death hit a minibus instead Wednesday, killing five Iraqis and wounding six, police said. At 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, a roadside bomb targeting an American military patrol exploded on a two-lane highway in Jurf al Naddaf, a town just south of Baghdad, said police Lt. Col. Sabah Hussein. The blast hit a private minibus that was traveling behind the convoy, killing five Iraqis and wounding six, Hussein said. The bomb had been hidden beneath the surface of the highway, but there was little traffic, given the early hour. The blast occurred in a section of Iraq south of Baghdad known as the Triangle of Death because of its frequent attacks by Sunni-led insurgents. *AP*

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Syria defiant but vows Hariri cooperation

DAMASCUS—SYRIA VOWED TUESDAY TO cooperate with a UN inquiry into the murder of former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq Hariri after a Security Council resolution demanded that Damascus help or face the consequences.

However, defiant officials and hundreds of Syrians who turned out to protest in the aftermath of the resolution maintained Damascus's innocence over the assassination, even though a report by the inquiry team has implicated top security officials here.

The resolution, passed by 15 votes to 0, demands that Syria detain suspects and urges a travel ban and a freeze of assets on all individuals designated as suspects in the slaying.

While a passage threatening sanctions was withdrawn to ensure a unanimous vote, the text does say the council "if necessary, could consider further action." It did not spell out what the action could be.

"The resolution is unjust. Syria regrets that such a resolution was adopted unanimously. This arouses concern and regret among the Syrian people," a high-ranking official in Damascus told AFP.

More than 1,000 young Syrians turned out close to the US Embassy to react to the resolution, carrying banners proclaiming: "We Have Nothing To Hide." Anti-riot police were installed outside the US Embassy where they prevented a dozen young people from going in.

Around the banner, carried by two youths in Raodah Square, other demonstrators waved Syrian flags and chanted "America, America, the night will not endure," and "To attack the 'ugly American,' is true solidarity." Around 200 students mounted another antiAmerican demonstration outside the Beaux-Arts Institute in the Syrian capital, while around 100 workers and students held another protest in Martyrs' Square.

Syrian Expatriates Minister Bussaina Shaaban maintained in an interview with CNN that "Syria wants to cooperate because Syria wants to know the truth and wants to know who killed Hariri.

"We are the people who are suffering as a consequence of this terrorist act and we are certainly most interested in finding out who the perpetrators are and we will certainly cooperate until these perpetrators are found," she said. *AFP*

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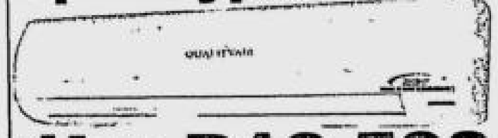
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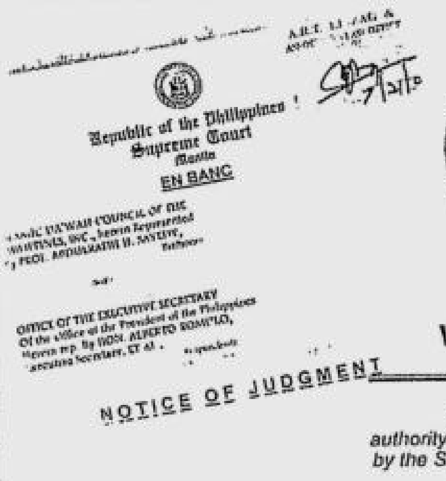
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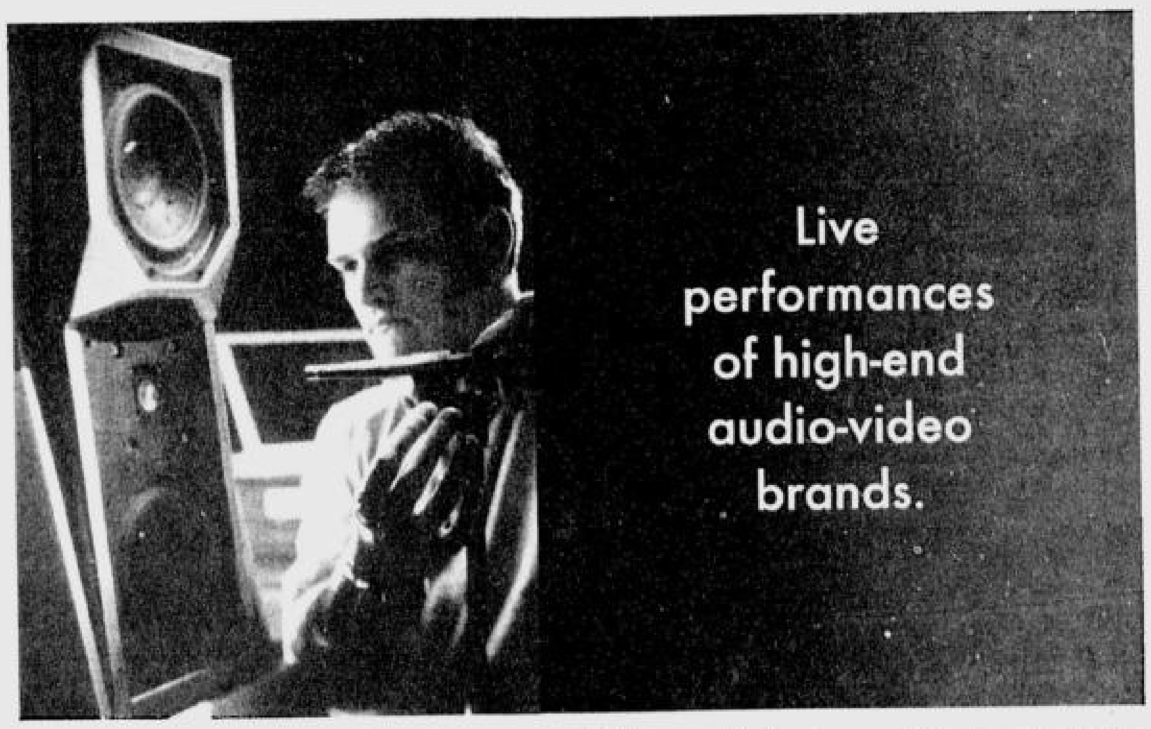
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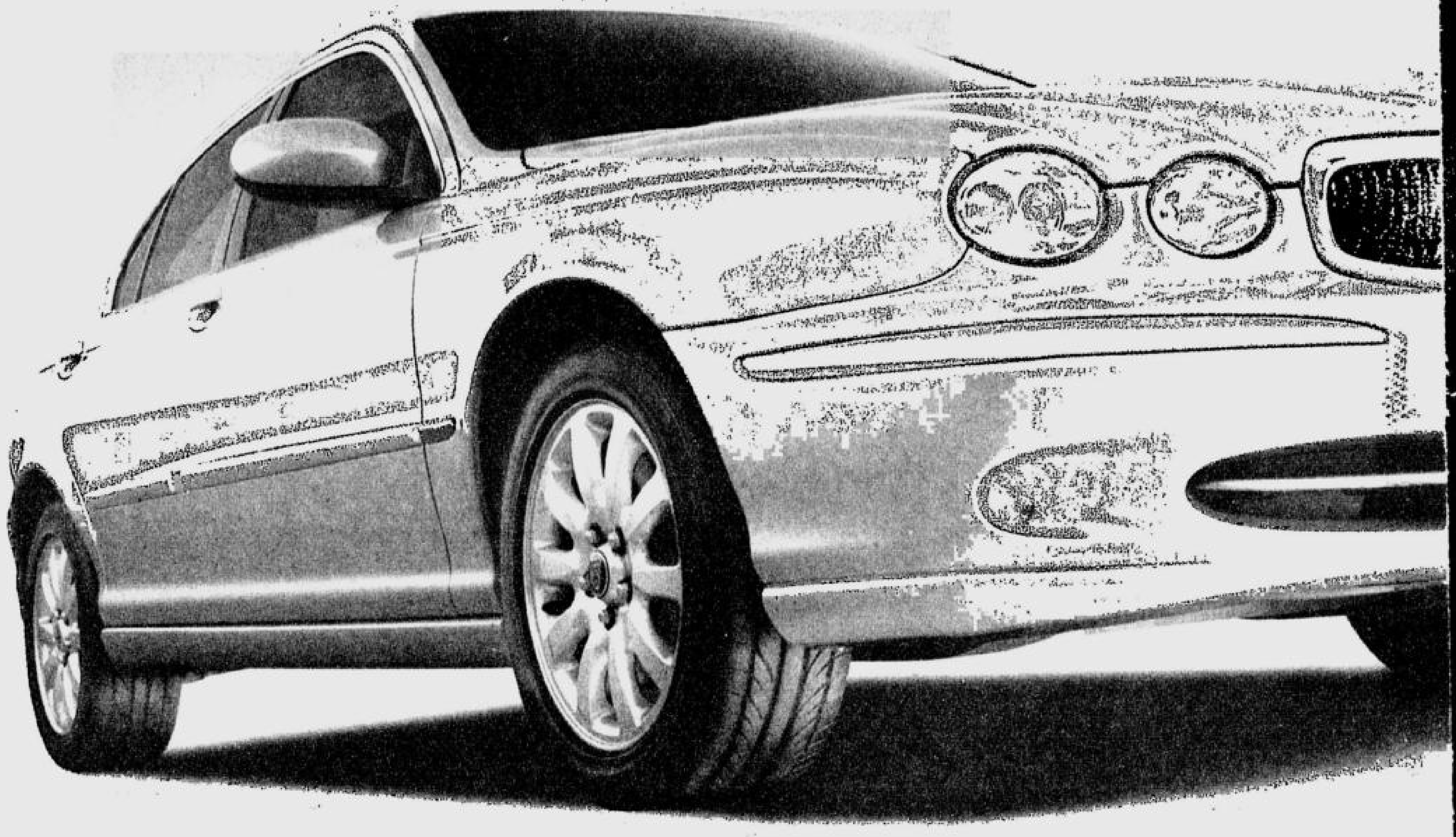

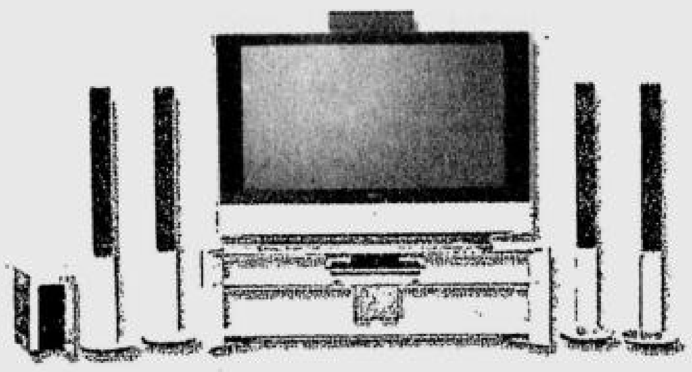

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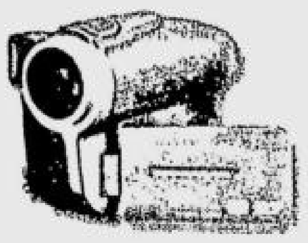

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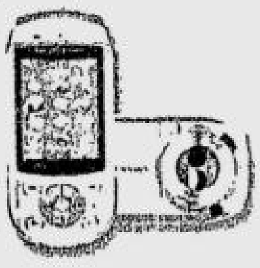

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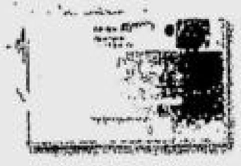

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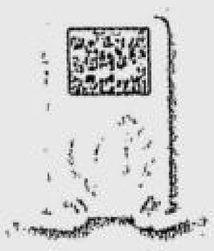

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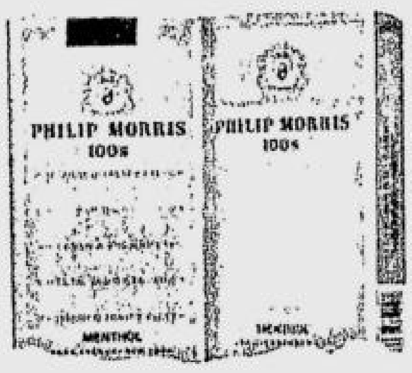

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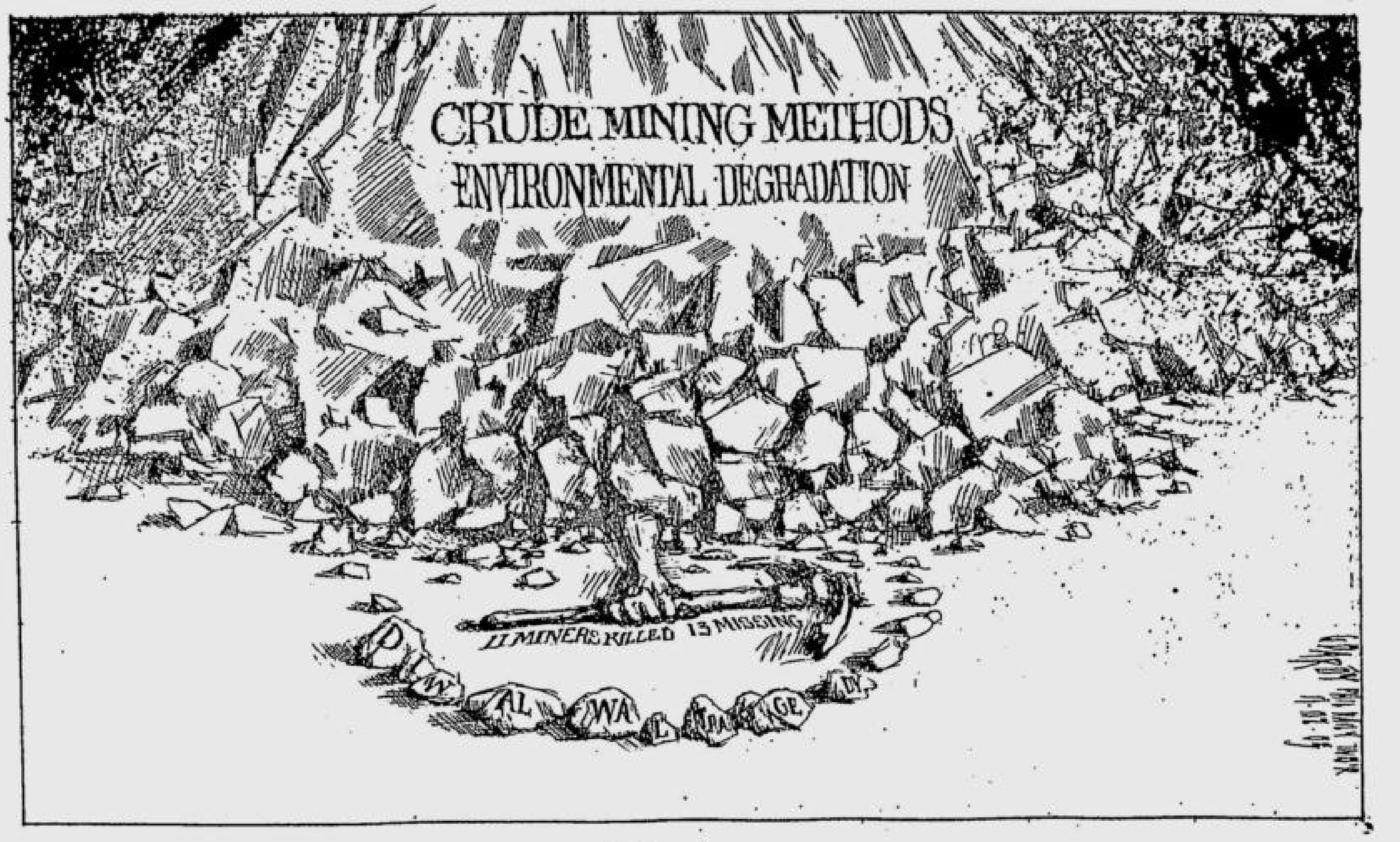

Premature celebration

EDITORIAL

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE SOUNDING ecstatic over the implementation of the expanded value-added tax (EVAT). Not only are they praising themselves for what they trumpet as a demonstration of political will, they have also promptly declared that EVAT has had very little adverse effect on the country's poor. On Tuesday, the day the law came into effect, Trade Secretary Peter Favila happily announced that prices of goods being sold in public markets and stores around the country remained stable.

It may be too soon for citizens to join in the celebration. While Favila said the price stability noted by government teams could be attributed to the government's success in informing the public about the law, he also pointed out that demand was low last Tuesday because of the holiday. In other words, if there was any pressure on prices of basic goods it would have been downward, not upward. Few people go to market and fewer still do any serious shopping on All Saints' Day. In fact, the only items that are very much in demand on that particular holiday are flowers and candles.

And why would prices shoot up so soon after EVAT was imposed? The part of the law which took effect last Tuesday imposed a 10-percent VAT on certain items that were previously exempt from coverage, like petroleum products, electricity, air and sea travel, and medical and dental services. So unless one went to a gas station or took a boat or a plane to the province or got sick, he was not even supposed to notice that the new tax measure was already in place. If prices of basic commodities rose that day, it would not have been for economic reasons but due to instant profiteering and unbridled greed.

The same thing may not be said, however, say, three or four months down the road, when production costs will have increased because of the higher costs of electricity and transportation and the VAT on goods and services rises from the present 10 percent to 12 percent. Favila has said the prices of goods should go up by not more than 5 percent on account of higher fuel costs. But how about higher power costs? How about higher labor costs, since workers are unlikely to simply grin and bear their higher electric bills, the higher fares that are sure to come, among other added burdens? What about the higher VAT rate itself? Are these not supposed to be factored into the computation of the effects of EVAT on prices?

Administration officials have described EVAT as a progressive tax that imposes a heavier burden on the more affluent who consume more. Finance Secretary Margarito Teves says that as much as 83 percent of the additional P80 billion revenue from EVAT yearly will be paid by the upper 50 percent of Filipino income earners. But even such a disproportionate sharing of the tax burden does not necessarily make the tax equitable. If you take away P83 from someone who holds a good job, he would probably give up his usual cup of coffee at the nearby café. But P17 taken away from a farmer or fisherman will probably force his family to go to sleep hungry. For those already living in poverty, the smallest added burden could already break their body and spirit.

For all the talk about safety nets, there is no escaping the wide net cast by EVAT. There are no discounts for the poor who ride jeepneys or ships. Poverty does not immunize anyone from diseases. How can those who cannot afford it avoid paying the tax?

Administration officials say the new tax will be returned to the people, and especially the poor, in terms of better health, education and basic services. But didn't they say earlier it was needed to close the budget deficit and reduce the country's debts and thereby stave off a financial crisis? And now that the 2005 deficit seems to be lower than initially projected, among the first things President Macapagal-Arroyo does is assure local officials they would get the P17 billion Internal Revenue Allocation left unreleased since the time of Joseph Estrada and promise congressmen they would have their pork barrel restored in full. Where is the sharing of burden and sacrifice here, when it is well known that the pork barrel is a rich source of graft and corruption? How do you reduce the country's debt when the administration is already spending what it has not even collected yet? And what will be left for essential social services after the President pays off her political debts?

Cold shower

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Humankind can not stand very much reality.—T.S. Eliot

IT FIRST CAME OFF THE PRESS 15 YEARS ago. Since then, the Human Development Report has provided reality checks for many locked into tunnel vision.

The HDR's 2005 edition again douses the reader with the "cold shower" effect. This annual United Nations Development Programme report does that by focusing on people in a skewed world.

"One-fifth of humanity live in countries where many think nothing of spending $2 on a cappuccino," it observes. "Another fifth survive on less than $1 a day in countries where children die for want of a simple anti-mosquito bed-net."

The Philippine Human Development Report 2005 also captures that contrast. In Metro Manila, the poorest 10 percent make do with roughly three centavos out of every consumption peso. But the richest 10 elite burn up 29.

"They are sick that surfeit with too much, as they that starve with nothing," spits "The Merchant of Venice."

The Philippine report is a spinoff from the global HDR. Economists Solita Monsod of the University of the Philippines and Cielito Habito of the Ateneo de Manila University oversaw its launch in 1994. Both chaired the National Economic and Development Authority—and are INQUIRER columnists.

The PHDR has been published every two years since. Like the international report, the PHDR pivots around theme analyses: the changing status of women in 1997, education in 2000, and security and armed conflict this year.

But the clout, as in the global report, comes from its innovative "human development indicators." HDIs are a composite index that gauges the human condition. It measures average country achievement in three basic aspects: long, healthy lives, education and a decent standard of living.

They break out of old narrow yardsticks like "gross domestic product" or static overall school enrollments. The result has been "a powerful alternative to income as a summary measure of human well being."

Credit for that goes to the late economist Mahbub ul Haq. "Mahbub got this right," wrote Amartya Sen who won the Nobel Prize for his work on poverty. He, however, wryly added: "But mankind cannot stand very much reality."

Since then, HDRs have tucked on a growing list of gauges, from survival probabilities to technology diffusion. And here, HDI indices tracked, since the early 1990s, a country still sapped by dictatorship and feckless coups, soused chief executives and blind oligarchies.

In the 1999 HDI ranking of 174 countries, the Philippines came in 98. We were bracketed between Botswana at 97 and Armenia at 99. This year, 177 countries were ranked. This time, we slid into Slot 84, wedged between again Armenia at 83 and China at 85.

Progress here has been uneven. And treadmill political crises lock us into a one-step-forward-two-steps-backward lurch. Is that why we failed to draw abreast of Malaysia's 61, let alone Singapore's 25?

The answer is a long story. For now, look at varying life expectancies within Asean in the current HDR. Life, after all, is the threshold at which all other hopes begin.

The average life span for Filipinos—and surprise, Vietnamese—is 70-plus years. That's up from the low 60s in the past century. "Seventy is the sum of our years," the psalmist writes. "Eighty if we are strong."

It's *consuelo de bobo* to mutter that a Laotian's life span is only 54. That's a notch higher than what prevails in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu or Maguindanao, the PHDR says.

But at 78 years, Singaporeans (let alone 80 for Canadians) show what is possible. "That a man's reach should exceed his grasp/Or what's a heaven for?"

No indicator captures more powerfully the divergence in human development opportunity than the deaths of kids and mothers. Here, 27 infants out of every 1,000 die at birth. Vietnam has pruned those deaths down to 19. Egypt, Bangladesh, Honduras and Nicaragua have saved more kids—not by massive investments—but by creative decentralization and integration of its health services, the HDR says.

In Malaysia and Thailand, medical personnel attend to almost 98 percent of births. Vietnam has 85 percent. In contrast, only 60 percent of our mothers have such help. (OK, so it's 19 percent in communist Laos.) The bulk of our caregivers, meanwhile, are racing for jobs in the rich countries.

So, is it any wonder that coffins are needed for 200 out of every 100,000 Filipinas who give birth? Malaysia has sliced that down to 41.

Skewed resources inevitably victimize the weakest. One out of five here is malnourished.

The deaths of these mothers and kids are preventable. That's why this mortality gap is obscene.

This fissure is reflected in some of the newer indicators, including "Probability of Surviving to Age 65." Some dub this the "Yeats' Tapemeasure"—a reference to the poet William B. Yeats' line on an early death: "We dreamed he would comb grey hair."

Women live longer than men. And 78 percent of Filipinas may reach 65 compared to 90 for Singaporeans.

There's more in both the global and Philippine HDRs. But the basic message remains the same: Bridging this gulf is of paramount urgency. "In our interconnected world, a future built on the foundations of mass poverty in the midst of plenty is politically unsustainable and morally indefensible."

To succeed, a crippled administration must move beyond surviving to governing. And a feeble opposition must muster faces other than the old crooks.

"Success is relative," T.S. Eliot writes. "It is what we can make of the mess we have made of things."

* * *

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Waiting for a coup

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RAUL GONZALEZ SAYS THE PRESIDENTIAL Security Group is being recruited by high-ranking military officers to join the move to oust GMA. He told media last week: "This is part of efforts to wean away the Armed Forces from the chain of command… Last night, a reliable source told me that some ranking former PSG officials are trying to penetrate the PSG."

Rex Robles agrees: "GMA can't be too sure of the loyalty of the PSG. If there is any coup rumor, most probably the PSG is involved… In every coup, you have to have people inside. That's basic. That's one of the problems of a president whose crown rests uneasily on his head."

What's wrong with the picture? Well, it is not the veracity of these revelations, or the lack of it. It is the fact that a coup is being talked about openly and its tactics assessed as though it were the most natural thing in the world. Rodolfo Biazon intuits what's wrong when he says: "This is regrettable. Is this an indication of the kind of trust the President can expect not only from the public but also from the different sectors? This is a sorry state of affairs."

But what makes this a truly sorry state of affairs is not just that practically every sector of this country has lost its trust in government, or stands to do so. It is that practically every sector of this country, including the public at large, is reposing its trust in the military to oust GMA.

The normal reaction of a Philippine government to the threat of a coup is to decry it as treason and a betrayal of the public trust and to call on the public to quash it. It is to ask the people to bestir themselves and rally behind the government to defend the republic. It has been so in the past. That, for example, was what Cory did when she was threatened by one coup try after another in the late 1980s. She called on the people to rise as they did at Edsa to protect democracy.

I remember in particular that in December 1989, when the gravest challenge to her government arose, the newspapers agreed to publish a pooled editorial condemning the coup and vowing to resist it if it succeeded. As far as I know, it was the first of its kind in this country. The only thing that's harder than getting the people of this country to agree on anything is getting the editors of this country to agree on anything.

Indeed, I remember that that was what Dinky Soliman and others did during the Oakwood mutiny. They called on the public to gather at the Edsa Shrine to register their protest against military adventurism and defend the republic. I did not heed their call, as I said then, not because I supported a military mutiny but because I did not wish to express my support for GMA. Going to Edsa was not defending the republic, it was defending GMA. There is a difference. GMA herself had betrayed democracy by unleashing her own brand of "war against terror" in this country which really meant a "war against democracy," particularly in the form of a "war against civil liberties." Or indeed a "war against good manners and right conduct:" Telling the very people that put her in power, "You are with me or against me," is ungratefulness of epic proportions.

Today, GMA is being openly threatened by a coup, but you do not hear her calling on us to rise up to defend her. Or heaven forbid, protect democracy. That's what's wrong with the picture.

How can she? She cannot count on the traditional pillars of Edsa to do so. Cory is out there calling on her to depart. If Jaime Cardinal Sin had been alive, he would probably be at her side. She cannot count on civil society to stop the march of booted feet, Dinky, Bill Luz, et al. having thrown their lot with those who want her out. She cannot count on media, with the exception of a columnist or two from my favorite newspaper, let alone expect the publishers and editors of newspapers to publish a pooled editorial condemning any strike against her, with the exception of a couple of newspapers distinguished for bad writing.

She cannot count on the Church to do so, with Fernando Capalla et al. still looking for truth in the bottom of the sand where they've buried their heads. She cannot count on Mike Velarde or Ricardo Vidal to do so; they now want elections, though still with her consent. She cannot count on the Americans, who surprisingly have been so lax lately they're positively leaking with revelations about her, to do so. She cannot count on the citizens to do so, not even the Kapampangans, *kababayans* of her father (someone from Pampanga wrote me to deny furiously she is one) or the Cebuanos, residents of the province she claims gave her more votes than Pampanga (the only small thing they want to be associated with is *danggit*). She probably cannot even count on Jose Pidal to do so.

No wonder a coup is being talked about openly in this country. If, and when, it happens, it will be the most popular coup in the world. One for Guinness.

There is, of course, one other explanation than that Filipinos have now become coup-crazy. Which is that they want to end a coup. Because since the "Hello, Garci" tape surfaced last July, that has been the universal perception of Filipinos of their government: It is the product of a coup—albeit one that was wrought not by the bayonet but by the Comelec, not by the generals but by the commissioners, not by the hand of RAM and YOU but by the hand of Virgilio Garcillano and Ronnie Puno. But it is a takeover of government nonetheless, it is forcible seizure of power nonetheless, it is a coup d'etat nonetheless.

Who knows? Maybe GMA will be filled with the Holy Spirit or get disgusted about everything, whichever comes first, and take everyone by surprise by resigning. Now that would be a real coup. But you could die waiting for that.

Brave Gordon

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A NEWSPAPER YESTERDAY QUOTED A MANILA police official as saying his men did not have to disperse members of the FPJ for President Movement (FPJPM) who were trying to gather signatures for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Manila North Cemetery, not far from FPJ's tomb, last Nov. 1. According to him, the people were quite displeased that the FPJPM members did not honor the feast of the dead. In fact, some people even used megaphones to denounce such a partisan activity in the cemetery. Other visitors just politely turned down the solicitation, arguing that there should be a right time for such things, but not then.

* * *

This reminds me of another episode still being talked about at the National Kidney Institute. According to inside sources, "Hyatt 10" members Dinky Soliman, Teresita Deles and Mely Nicolas showed up last Wednesday at the room of former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who had checked into the NKI earlier suffering from high blood pressure. The sources said the three visitors came without permission or clearance from NKI director Dr. Enrique Ona (they dropped in on him on the way out, when they should have done so before visiting). The suspicion was that they were there to prod Boncodin to give a stronger deposition on the fertilizer issue to the lawyers of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. She was supposed to appear that morning before his committee, but was taken ill the night before and entered the hospital at midnight. Sources said Boncodin's BP shot up some more after the Hyatt 10 people left, causing her doctors a lot of worry. Later in the afternoon, her condition stabilized and she received a visit from her classmate at Harvard, former Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, and Magsaysay himself.

* * *

The concern of both the government and the citizens now is how to cushion the impact of the newly implemented EVAT. Sources in the oil industry are hopeful that since the price of diesel increased by only 26 centavos per liter, as compared to some P2.50 per liter of gasoline, this should not affect transportation cost too much. This is because public transportation such as the jeepneys and buses run mostly on diesel, as do the vehicles transporting food items. The Department of Finance opines that 83 percent of VAT-derived revenues would come from the richer sectors, but this will have to be monitored carefully. So far, government personnel say prices of commodities in the past two days remain stable, except for the prices of VAT-exempt vegetables, which showed a slight increase due to recent transport problems caused by inclement weather.

* * *

Another major concern is whether government would judiciously use the funds to be raised from EVAT. Government professes a commitment to use those funds for infrastructure, health, education and livelihood projects, but that's not enough. It has to constantly monitor such use, for the funds derived from EVAT are truly blood money from the masses. Corruption has to be cut down and eliminated.

Speaking of these funds, my husband and I were at the dinner that Sen. Richard Gordon and his wife Kate threw last week in Intramuros for his very personable fraternity brod, Saeed A. Daof, director general of the Center for the Promotion of Peace and Development in Mindanao. After dinner, Gordon escorted us through the light-and-sound show that he put up while he was tourism secretary. (If you haven't seen this show that encapsulizes RP history, make it a point to do so; it's the patriotic shot in the arm we all need at this point.) Afterwards some of us sat around for coffee and Gordon told us that he is among the senators who favor the scrapping of the EVAT on oil, diesel and LPG, which is expected to raise about P50 billion a year, as this measure will affect the poor directly. In fact, he has filed a bill to this effect. In its place, Gordon proposes a tax on text messages, arguing that slapping P1 on each of the 300 million texts circulating in the country a day would yield P90 billion a year. He feels that beyond a few truly necessary texts per individual texter, most others are superfluous and ought to be taxed.

* * *

I recalled to him that around two years, this idea was being tossed around in Congress. In fact, this column proposed that a ceiling on tax-free texts be imposed, beyond which they should be taxed even just 10 centavos per text to raise badly needed revenues. But no one was brave enough to file such bill for fear of alienating the masses in this text capital of the world. Now, with elections just a year and a half away, are our Congress members braver?

Gordon says it depends on how the bill is sold to the electorate. He opined that the people could be convinced to accept a tax on text provided the funds would go to the country's most urgent needs. These are: more classrooms (we need 55,000), hospitals, helicopters for disasters, reforms in the Comelec and the development of bioethanol fuel that would spur our sugar industry and make us more self-sufficient in fuels. I wonder how many in Congress can be as brave as Gordon.

* * *

The Inner Wheel Club of Manila (IWCM), led by its president Drina Ampil, is calling on the public to support its annual Christmas bazaar this Saturday, Nov. 5, at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Its members are exhorting people to do their shopping in this "biggest ever" bazaar, proceeds from which will support IWCM's ongoing projects, such as a feeding program, day care center, medical missions, scholarship program, sewing and computer training for out-of-school youths and housewives and the geriatric ward pavilion at the National Center for Mental Health. The IWCM ladies promise a wide variety of goods at bargain prices. For particulars, contact the IWCM secretariat at 524-9914/522-1864.

VCO as bird flu remedy?

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

NEWS FLASH.

If coconut oil has proven effective for HIV-AIDS cases, it might also be good as a H5N1 (bird flu) remedy. Studies must now be made on the oil's efficacy against this new disease that threatens to become a worldwide epidemic.

This urgent proposal came from Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit who helped make virgin coconut oil (VCO) a popular dietary supplement and medicine here and abroad and helped remove it from the "bad oil" list.

Dayrit, hale and active at 86, is a known pharmacologist, cardiologist, internist, science researcher, author and University of the Philippines professor emeritus. He was former president of the National Academy of Science and Technology, the highest scientific body in the country.

The team Dayrit directed in the early 1990s proved that HIV-AIDS cases responded to coconut oil. The highly promising results are now the bases for continued trials meant to alleviate the suffering of millions of HIV-AIDS patients in many countries, especially those in Africa.

Dayrit outlined his proposal and rationale in his Oct. 24 letter personally delivered to the office of Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

Dayrit's proposal was for "Southeast Asian countries affected by H5N1 (bird flu) to conduct clinical, animal and viral studies on the effectiveness of coconut oil (either RBD copra oil or virgin coconut oil) which the Philippines can supply."

RBD refers to the refined, bleached and deodorized oil used for cooking. VCO is the result of the cold-press method that uses either no heat or little heat for moisture removal.

Dayrit's proposed studies which, he said "we cannot do in the Philippines as we have neither the virus nor the patient," are as follows:

- Protocol I—Laboratory test: H5N1 cell cultures treated with a range of concentration of (a) RBD or copra-derived oil (ex. Minola brand) (b) virgin coconut oil (Oleum brand)
- Protocol II—On infected birds (chickens, geese, ducks). Add coconut oil to their feed and drinking water and monitor any beneficial effects.
- Protocol III A—On patients with H5N1 virus. Administer VCO in doses of 30 ml every 8 hours or 3 times a day as sole antiviral agent (monotherapy). In case of availability of Tamiflu (oseltamivir), patient's consent and choice will have to be considered.
- Protocol III B—Patients with H5N1 infections. Duotherapy with Tamiflu and VCO.

Dayrit's rationale: "Coconut oil fatty acids are predominantly (67-72 percent) medium chain (MC) saturated, not long-chain saturated. MC fats (C8, C10, C12) have been shown by Kabara and others to kill enveloped lipid-coated viruses, gram positive bacteria, fungi and some protozoa with lauric acid (C12) being most active. C14 myristic acid has additional activity.

"These four fatty acids working in synergistic natural combination are present in coconut oil, not as free acids but as glyceride esters. While triglycerides and diglycerides are inactive, their monoglycerides are strongly antimicrobiologically more active than their free fatty acids."

Dayrit is the author of the fast-selling book "The Truth About Coconut Oil: The Drugstore in a Bottle." He also wrote a book on the history of Philippine medicine and is preparing a book on pharmacology for rational drug use.

Dayrit reminded Duque that he directed a team in treating 14 HIV-AIDS cases in San Lazaro Hospital with coconut oil. Their study later proved that coconut oil could lower viral count and raise CD4 lymphocytes as effectively as monolaurin (monoglyceride of lauric acid).

"Minola brand was the oil we used then," Dayrit told the INQUIRER, "as there was no VCO yet.

Therefore coconut oil is anti-viral as is, Dayrit stressed in his letter, and this explains why there are now so many testimonials of colds and flu being put under control by those taking VCO.

"VCO might even be more effective than RBD copra-derived Minola or Baguio oil," Dayrit added. "Since H5N1 is a flu virus and lipid coated, it very likely will be also susceptive to CO viricidal action."

Dayrit added: "The Philippines has very few HIV-AIDS cases, as you well know, and SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) never took off here although we had some SARS patients traveling around on their return (from work abroad). Could this resistance be due to our CO consumption?"

Dayrit listed reasons why CO should be considered. CO is a food and has no known side effects or toxicity level. Peoples of South Pacific have been regularly taking more than 50-60 percent of caloric intake as coconut fat and have no widespread heart disease or toxic symptoms.

There have been no reports of developing resistance to the cidal effects of CO.

Lastly, Tamiflu itself is untested for its effectivity against H5N1 and for adverse reactions.

Dayrit knows Duque personally. Duque succeeded Dayrit's son Dr. Manuel Dayrit as health secretary. The former secretary, known for his efforts to stop the spread of SARS in the Philippines, is now with the World Health Organization in Geneva.

Dayrit added in his letter to Duque that he has talked to his son about a WHO endorsement. The younger Dayrit suggested an ethics committee approval from the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM).

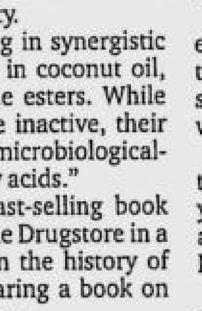
The bird flu virus has reportedly infected 118 people in Asia, of whom 61 have died. Cases in Europe have been reported. The virus could spread fast via migratory birds. Millions could die if the virus spreads, world health experts said. Health officials from 30 countries recently met in Canada to prepare and coordinate efforts.

Why don't we give this a try?

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

The soft underbelly of the argument



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ACCORDING TO SOLITA MONSOD, THE SURveys indicated that President Macapagal-Arroyo's margin of victory was anywhere from 2 to 2.5 million votes (based on the surveys), 1.1 million votes (based on Congress' official tally), or 700,000 votes (based on the incomplete Namfrel Quick Count). Let's add the conventional wisdom at the time, which did, indeed, predict the President winning, but by a whisker, ranging from 200,000 to 400,000 votes. Thus, you have a spread ranging from the high figures the surveys suggested to the much more slender figures those with practical political experience on the ground expected.

Several factors, at the time, were expected to affect the final outcome. The first was whether the President's machinery would deliver votes, at the expense of Fernando Poe Jr.'s support. The leading opposition candidate was popular, but his support was, as they say, soft—too many of his voters were susceptible to bribery, intimidation, or some other influences resulting in their trading in their votes for Poe for votes for the President; the opposition machinery was creaky, under-funded and hopelessly divided. The second factor was the weather, which again would give those with logistical abilities an edge in mobilizing the voters. The third was a widely held suspicion that a rather extensive purging of the electoral rolls had taken place, preventing people from voting in opposition bailiwicks (the SWS estimated the number of people unable to vote at 900,000).

What was not factored in at the time, and which has become the root of the President's problems today, was her fanatical insistence on securing a margin of victory that was on the high side. Her obsession with a seven-figure margin would engage the President on a level so personal as to prevent any possible conclusion other than that she became intimately involved in producing that mandate. So high was her involvement, in fact, that she took to making phone calls that prudence should have dictated not to be made.

There was a palpable sense of insecurity about the President's victory at the time. On May 24, 2004, I wrote in this space: "From election day, I have always maintained that the administration needed to maintain the plausibility—a credible believability—of its victory. Beyond the pre-election survey, which indicated such a victory, the administration could count on the fact that the opposition's ranks were fractured by disunity and ill-feelings. But somewhere along the way… the opposition has been able to turn the tables on the administration… This happened because enough people have become convinced of the plausibility of an administration defeat instead of victory."

Recall that at the time, the administration retreated into its tried-and-tested siege mentality. But despite its increasing nervousness about the canvassing, it finally eked out a proclamation that left a bad taste in everyone's mouth. As I wrote on June 21, 2004: "The problem is that Congress faces the problem of declaring a winner within less than a month and a half after election day, or a power vacuum, which can only be partially filled by an acting president, could ensue. There is the problem then of being obligated to do two contradictory things: to move with deliberate speed in what has traditionally been a largely ceremonial duty; while at the same time attempting to go beyond giving mere lip service to a constitutional injunction to be the front line against electoral fraud…" Congress chose to do its ceremonial duty, paid lip service to a disunited and inept (in terms of tactics) opposition. And, as I observed at the time, "Then there are the allegations of fraud being beyond the grasp of most people, at least as a means to provoke real outrage and protest. Unlike in 1986, there weren't ballot box snatchings and goons waving machine guns and thus, no tangible electoral abuse to get upset over on a personal level."

Which brings us to Virgilio Garcillano, the recordings, the President's reaction, and where we are now. "Garci," the tapes, and the President's apology made everything that came before "immaterial and irrelevant." Even granting that the President, at the very least, won by a whisker, and that anything over and above that is electoral gravy, and granting, in turn, that the opposition, which must have made gains due to the last-minute ad blitz by Poe, was outgunned in the logistics department, hobbled by the disenfranchisement of voters and outmaneuvered in Congress, you still have the question of intent. The President says she called Garci to "protect" her votes, which leaves Garci as the only one who can answer whether the interpretation of "protection" was to prevent fraud when it came to the President's votes, or perpetrate fraud in the case of Poe's votes and those of the other candidates. As it stands, no one really knows, and there lies the problem.

In the end, those who supported the President must take stock of the fact that she trusted neither her own supporters nor the system over which she presided to protect not only her votes but everyone's votes; that furthermore, her initial inclination was never to be forthcoming with her people but to retreat into the siege mentality that has perpetually hobbled her governance; that when she did, for a brief time, decide to try to respond to public opinion, the task was so unpalatable to her that she quickly junked the effort, preferring a conspiracy to dilute and deflect the issues at hand. If she was no better than any other candidate in the days leading to, and immediately after, the election, then the cover-up since has put her beyond the pale—disqualifying her from exercising whatever mandate she may have received last May.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

'Palanca' letter

YOUNG BLOOD

Stargirl

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT DAY IN THIRD GRADE WHEN you first proved to me how you could be so good without even trying? You, a new kid from the other section with your American accent, beat me in an elocution contest I had practiced so hard for. I hated you for beating me, but I liked the way you challenged me. I kept you close because I wanted to know your secrets.

In fourth grade, we wound up as classmates. I had the pleasure of staring (glaring?) at your spiky bob of hair in front of me every day. You turned to face me once in a while to ask, "Where's your test paper?" "Psst, what's the answer to No. 6?" "Hey, you're that girl whom I defeated last year, eh?"

Probably realizing that I didn't bite, you turned around more often. You butted in on my conversations, told me jokes, teased me. I suppose we had about the same IQ because nothing could keep us from competing with each other all the time—for our class ranking as well as the wittiest repartee, for example—trivial little things, I know, but that's how you came to evolve from my coolest seat mate to funniest pal to "bestest best buddy."

Do you know that my fingers were always crossed when the teacher announced group assignments? I eagerly anticipated being your partner-in-crime on projects so that it wouldn't be obvious that I liked to hang out with a guy like you. Owing to a stroke of luck (or misfortune), we always ended up being paired in Linggo ng Wika dances, Literary Week emceeing stints, and role-playing in class. Our unlikely duo became ubiquitous, but I only noticed it when I was told that somebody who had a crush on you wanted to crush me, too.

I kept a diary back then. My childish scrawl identified those whom I had listed as "Noisy" on the blackboard or who had given me candies during recess. Then your name became a frequent entry. I blame the Sweet Valley pocketbooks in the library for making me believe that I was in love.

Do you know why I made boys cry on past Valentine's Days? They gave me chocolates, roses and balloons, which I happily passed on to the bus driver or stuffed into the janitor's locker as soon as their backs were turned to me. The only ones I kept for myself were the ones that you gave me. I wasn't harboring an Amazonian affection for you anymore; it was increasingly becoming the dreamy, girly type.

Do you know how I almost threw up when I found out that you had passed the science high school entrance exam we bet on and I did not? I thought we could both make it, but algebra and biology were my Waterloo. You had an easy time with those subjects because you read heavy and geeky encyclopedias at home. When you announced that you were leaving, all I could do was cry quietly.

You were about to wear a different uniform the next school year. I knew I would lose face, but I had to tell the truth instead of hide it or I could lose you forever.

Before graduation, we were asked to write messages and apologies we could never say face-to-face through *palanca* letters which we would exchange during our class retreat. The retreat was our school's last-ditch attempt to unify everyone before we started high school. The palanca letter was my chance to finally express my feelings, and so I wrote: "You are one of the most cutest boys I've ever seen! You annoy me to hell, but I like you anyway ..."

It was awfully embarrassing. Words were gushing out of me and I was almost unconsciously scribbling messages that were no different from an obsessed fan's mail. But had I been more careful, my words would have lost their gut-wrenching spontaneity.

After I gave you the palanca letter during our retreat, you didn't avoid me in class like I thought you would. But I did avoid you, and I got teased about it incessantly. I felt like bawling every break time, ashamed of being known as the "flirty girl who likes boys," a reputation that hardly fitted someone who played video games with guys as a pastime.

Much to my astonishment, you kept silent and "talked" to me through letters instead. The first one said: "Your palanca asks me to say if I like you, too. Well, I do… Are you mad at me? Do you still like me?"

Have you ever wondered about the what-if's, as much as I do? What if you didn't leave? What if we had left together? What if you thought I was ugly and avoided me instead? What if you already liked somebody else?

What if I didn't give you the letter at all?

All I know now is that it stopped there because you transferred to another school and I stayed.

Well, I can wear heels now—I'm in college already. Looking back, I never really regretted writing those things on that scented stationery. I gave you something tangible to hold on to during those years when we didn't see each other at all.

Can you believe that I still keep your heavily creased letters in my purse? I smile every time I re-read it. I pretend that they came from the "new" you to whom I was jokingly re-introduced six years later at our classmate's debut.

Aside from one jeepney ride, all that separates us now are preoccupations with matters of consequence: you have your guitar, an accounting book, a crumpled McDo tissue paper; I have my journal, a trusty Pilot, and a Cloud 9 candy wrapper. It's a small world and ours aren't much different as I see it. Why don't our paths cross more often? I like thinking of treading the same footbridge you do, sitting on the same chair you sat on at lunch, browsing through the same books in the bookstore nearby, looking up at the same billboard at the exact moment you do . . .

Dear Buddy, can you still beat me at Tekken? Are clichéd movies ("Austin Powers") and stupid pick-up lines ("Yeah, baby, yeah!") still your favorites? Do you still study hard at home so you can have fun with the jokers in school?

They say that you croon the way the singer from "The Calling" does, and that you're as charming as Spongecola's Yael, so I suppose girls must be swooning over you now. How many have you fooled around with? How many nights have you dropped down in bed drunk? Do you still give Valentine's gifts to girls—Butterfingers, roses and letters?

Do you think it's funny how I wish every time I sneeze that you're the one "thinking of me"? Or how I rely on ESP to contact you even though I know your cell-phone number?

Do you still remember the question you popped to me when we were in grade school? What is your answer now?

Do you still like me?

Stargirl, 18, is an AB Communication Research sophomore at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She likes writing letters for their sentimental value.

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Cure for pollution and high prices

THE CLEAN AIR ACT WAS SIGNED a few years ago with much fanfare. And yet every day, as I travel from Parañaque City to Quezon City, I see so many vehicles spewing thick, black smoke. True, I sometimes see MMDA anti-smoke belching teams going after these vehicles, but the guilty ones apparently never learn their lesson.

Of late, the cost of crude oil has been going up, up and away—from $26 per barrel before the American invasion of Iraq in March 2003 to today's level of $70 per barrel.

Fortunately, we can cushion the impact of these two problems—severe pollution and skyrocketing oil prices—by using "ethanol alcogas" and "coco biodiesel."

Ethanol alcogas or plain alcogas is a blend of gasoline and ethanol. Alcogas is said to be equally, if not more, efficient than pure gasoline owing to the high-octane rating of ethanol. Ethanol is also environment-friendly.

Ethanol can be produced locally—from sugarcane, molasses, corn, cassava and other root crops. A newly launched 10-percent alcogas blend, using "imported" ethanol, will be cheaper by 65 to 71 centavos than pure gasoline. Bigger price reduction can surely be attained if we use locally produced ethanol.

According to the Department of Energy, the country will be able to save about $294 million in foreign exchange every year if the Bio Ethanol Bill is enacted and the country adopts the 10-percent alcogas blend for vehicle use. Given proper support, the setting up of large ethanol production facilities should be no problem to Filipino capitalists, given the numerous sugar centrals we have and our extensive experience in sugarcane planting.

Coco biodiesel, on the other hand, is a blend of indigenous coconut oil with the additive coco methyl ester (CME) and diesel fuel. The mix results in much cleaner exhaust gases. It doesn't affect engine efficiency. The DOE's estimate here is around P6 billion every year in savings, on the assumption that biodiesel will reduce by 5 percent the country's oil importation.

Aside from the benefits of cleaner air, a more stable source of fuel and huge savings in foreign exchange, the use of alcogas and biodiesel will open more job opportunities in rural agricultural areas and strengthen the sugar and coconut industries.

The government must, therefore, come up with a clear, consistent and long-term program to encourage and support private corporations to set up production and agricultural facilities for alcogas and biodiesel. At the same time, it must pursue a massive campaign, through the media, to educate Filipinos on the many benefits that can be derived from the use of biofuel blends. We can, perhaps, take a lesson or two from our neighbor Thailand, which has extensive natural gas deposits and yet is looking toward a 10-percent ethanol/alcogas mix by year 2008.

—ANDREI M.L. POSTRADO,
Parañaque City,
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Private sector-initiated lifestyle check, anyone?

THE REPORT "ANOTHER CUStoms official fails gov't lifestyle check," written by Doris Dumlao, which was published on Page A5 of the INQUIRER's Sept. 20 issue, deserved to be on the front page—to bring back a sense of guilt and shame in our bureaucracy.

If we can just curb government corruption, which eats up more than P400 billion yearly from our annual budget, we could provide more and better educational facilities, higher wages for schoolteachers, better public health care services and facilities, and better roads for the consumers. And then, we can totally expect absolute compliance with the obligation to pay taxes.

The media should contribute to nation-building by giving such reports front-page treatment. The reports bring about public abhorrence of corruption in government and show that corruption does not pay and means living a life of shame.

I also encourage the formation of NGO lifestyle groups dedicated to secretly cover, monitor and photograph the mansions and fleet of signature cars, condos and fabulous assets of prosecutors, judges and justices, including those in the Supreme Court.

Only a vigilant citizenry, together with the Fourth Estate, acting as one with zeal and determination, can undo and curb corruption, a malaise eating and destroying the very moral fiber and economy of our nation.

I, for one, would organize a lifestyle check on judicial officials—from the prosecutors to the Supreme Court justices—so that they would truly live within their compensation packages.

Lifestyle checks, after all, are the biggest deterrent against corruption in all government instrumentalities. Our coalition volunteers and members all over the country can be mobilized for this call to mass action. We hope other civic and civil society groups would join us in this movement.

—VIC DEL FIERRO JR.,
president,
Coalition for Consumer Protection & Welfare Inc.,
vicdelfire@yahoo.com

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Pattern of looting unborn Filipinos

THE QUICK REPLY OF THE PROmoters of the Arroyo administration's NorthRail project to critics is the value of the railway to the economic development of the country. There is absolutely no argument over this point. The value of a railway system for the country has been recognized since colonial times. The construction of what is now the Philippine National Railways system in Luzon started during the Spanish era is testimony to this. Just a conjecture: The Americans did not encourage the expansion of the railway system because it did not lend to the growth of the US motor manufacturing industry.

But huge infrastructure projects become a bane to future generations when attended by massive graft—as have been shown by many development projects undertaken by Ferdinand Marcos and pursued by his successors. When the projects were being implemented, they did give a semblance of prosperity, providing employment opportunities and yielding obvious benefits in the immediate present; until payback time when Filipinos realized they had paid too much because the project implementers appropriated for themselves large portions of the borrowed funds and deposited these in foreign banks, out of the loop of our economy. This is the justification for the investigation and cancellation, if necessary, of the NorthRail project of the Arroyo administration.

Marcos was a trailblazer for grand larceny against future generations who are to this day paying for his loot in the billions of dollars now believed deposited in European banks. This is the unfortunate legacy of Marcos—a pattern of looting Filipinos yet unborn—faithfully copied by his successors.

—EP DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St.,
Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City

Historical fact based on documents

THIS IS IN CONNECTION WITH DJ Yap's news report, wherein it was mentioned that according to historian Bernardita Reyes Churchill, my father, Tomas B. Morato, was formally appointed mayor of Quezon City on Nov. 4, 1939. (PDI, 10/5/05)

When I was invited to speak at the session hall of Quezon City last Oct. 3, I brought with me several documents and pictures from my father's memorabilia. One of them was the diploma-size appointment paper of my father, signed by President Quezon and his then executive secretary, Jose Vargas, dated Oct. 12, 1939, the day the city charter was signed.

There was no need for my father to be reappointed on Nov. 4, 1939. If it took some days for my father to assume office, it was only because he was mayor of Calauag, Tayabas (now Quezon province) when President Quezon sent him a note stating: "Tommy, I would like you to have the singular honor to be the First Mayor of the City to be named after me."

My father had to hurriedly wind up official affairs as Calauag mayor and relocate the family to Quezon City. It was this delay that, today, causes the confusion.

President Quezon might have acted as officer in charge of the city named after him, as Manuel Quezon III aptly put it. But it was wrong for Churchill to say that President Quezon acted as Quezon City's first mayor for a short time. This view was refuted by Don Pio Pedrosa and Don Emilio Abello in their lifetime. The two told me that for President Quezon to be mayor of Quezon City, even in an acting capacity, would have put the president under the control of the Department of the Interior.

And based on the documents in my possession, I can say that, at most, President Quezon might have only been a "caretaker" of Quezon City while waiting for my father to arrive.

I say this also on the basis of what Oscar Castelo, my father's first secretary as the city's first appointive mayor, told me.

But it really does not matter to me even if my father was the 10th Quezon City mayor. What bothers me is that so much of our history—starting with the life of our hero, Jose Rizal (whose life story has been written based mostly on hearsay until the book written by Dr. Jose Baron-Fernandez, a multi-awarded international author and researcher, came out in 1981)—have been bungled up by so-called "historians."

Let us be factual and not monkey around with what truly happened in our past, for if we cannot even accurately report on what happened yesterday, the more we can't on what happened 50 or 100 years ago.

Do we have to adhere to an idea just for the sake of being different?

—MANUEL L. MORATO,
Doña Consuelo Bldg.,
192-194 Tomas B. Morato Ave., QC

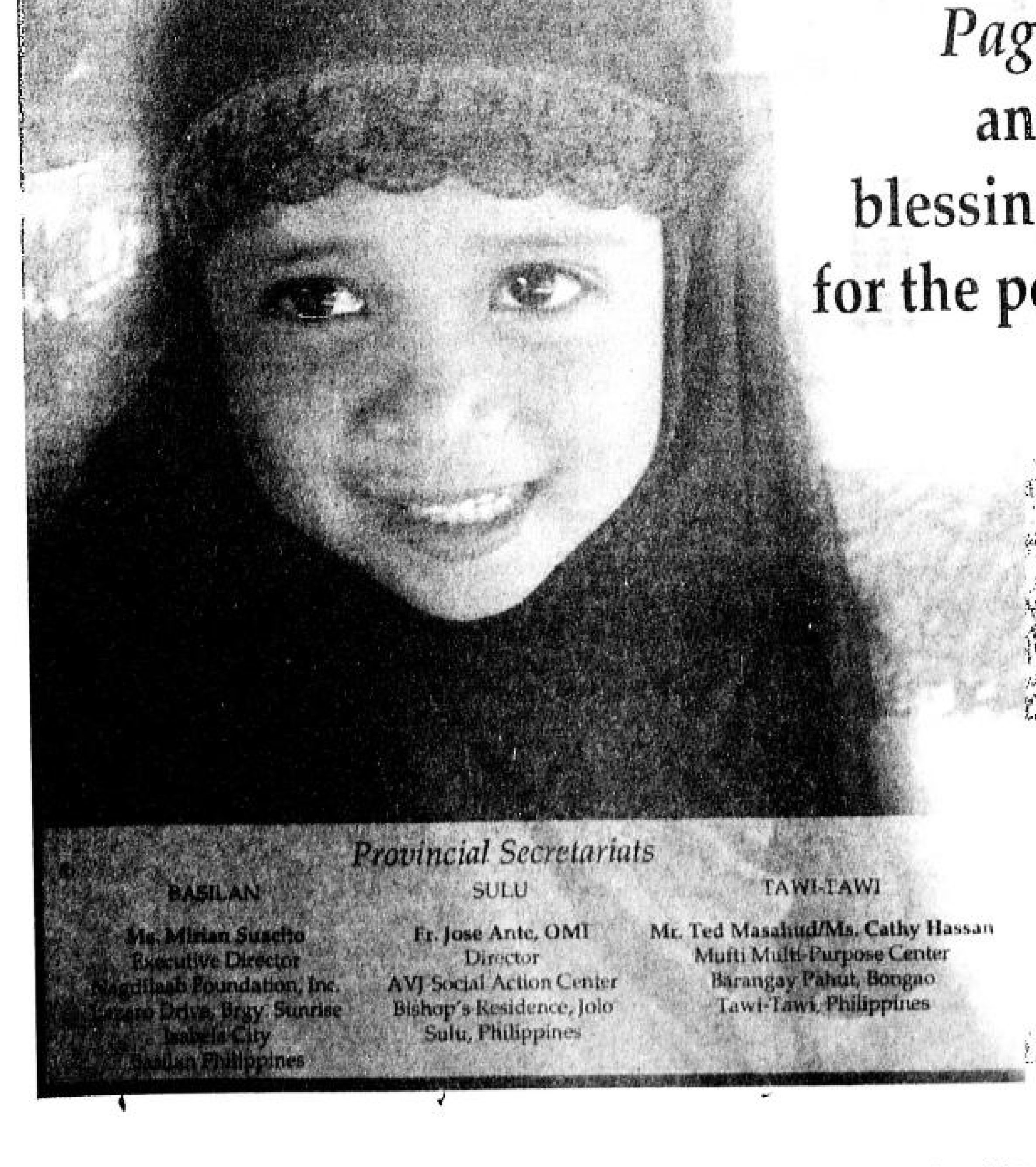
A cover-up for Palace wrongdoing

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo really won the 2004 presidential election fair and square, as she claims, she must get Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to appear in the Senate inquiry. The absence of Garcillano casts serious doubts on the legitimacy of her presidency.

Garcillano could not have disappeared on his own. It is obvious that his disappearance was the product of a conspiracy that, from all indications, could not have succeeded without the participation of a sinister group with links to Malacañang and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Garcillano's continuing non-appearance is a desperate move to cover up wrongdoings that involve Malacañang and ranking officers of the AFP. If these wrongdoings are allowed to go unpunished, then the Filipino people could end up at the mercy of this morally bankrupt administration. It is high time for good men to band together and do something before evil completely triumphs in this country.

—TERESITO G. MONDRAGON,
Barangay 2, San Carlos City,
Negros Occidental



BISMILLAHIR-RAHMANIR-RAHEEM
(In the name of Almighty God, the Merciful, the Beneficent)

AL MUBARAK EID-UL-FITR
(A Blessed Festival of the Breaking of the Fast)

On the celebration of this *Eid-ul-Fitr*,
the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast,
following the fasting month of Ramadan,
Pagtabangan BaSulTa joins its brothers
and sisters in Islam in praying for the
blessings of Allah for Peace and Prosperity
for the people - and especially the children -
of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi
and for the Muslim *Ummah*
throughout the world.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Artificial reefs double fish harvest

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Pasacao, Camarines Sur

ON WHAT WAS ONCE barren sea floor, coral clusters have emerged from concrete cubes in the fish sanctuary in the Ragay Gulf off the village of Caranan in Pasacao, Camarines Sur.

Francisco P. Ombao, 53, feels self-fulfilled over the return of marine bounty in the 145-hectare coastal area since he and other concerned divers and fishermen installed the artificial reefs 14 years ago in the gulf, facing the Masbate island group.

At present, Ombao said, 73 percent of living corals in the sanctuary are inhabited by creatures of varying sizes, shapes, colors and textures.

Colorful worms, such as sea feathers and lilies, and other marine species are back in the reefs, he said. An inventory also showed thriving thorny and winged oysters, which produce natural pearls.

Direct participation

Ombao, a habitat and fishing regulation officer of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, has been leading a team of divers and deputized fishermen in developing the Artificial Reef System (ARS) since 1991.

Before, he said, 51 percent of the original reef had been lost, mainly due to rampant dynamite fishing and other destructive fishing methods.

The BFAR project team has directly involved the fisherfolk, one of the main stakeholders in the fisheries resources, in the experiment of coral reef rehabilitation using the ARS. At least 40 percent of the 7,000 villagers are fishers.

Under the ARS, concrete hollow cubes are strategically clustered on the sea bottom to serve as mediums for coral growth and to establish new coral colonies.

Ombao said that after only one hands-on training, all the compressor fishers were mobilized to help install the artificial reef modules in the marine reserve. Three motorized outrigger bancas ferried the cubic-meter modules, one at a time and weighing hundreds of kilograms, from the shore to a depth of at least 20 meters.

The fish sanctuary was established at the drop of the slope of a forest reserve, close to the uninhabited shoreline and buffered within the marine reserve area, Ombao said.

"With the forest reserve area above, the fish sanctuary is free from silt that allows faster coral growth," he said.

Ordinance

In 1994, the municipal council passed an ordinance declaring the 113-ha marine reserve and 32-ha fish sanctuary. It imposed a total fishing ban in the sanctuary, except only for hook-and-line fishing.

The BFAR has deputized seven fishermen to assist them in catching violators.

One of them, Armando Mortega, 40, said the ARS had doubled fish catch to an average of 10 kilos since the community-based resource management program was implemented.

Mortega was among the first to be trained by the BFAR in scientific diving using oxygen tanks. He said it was easy for him to learn the basics because as a former "compressor fisher," he was used to surviving for hours underwater on air pumped to the mouth through a plastic or rubber hose connected to a compressor on a banca.

He said he used a spear gun to catch fish and a flashlight wrapped in rubber strips.

Requirement

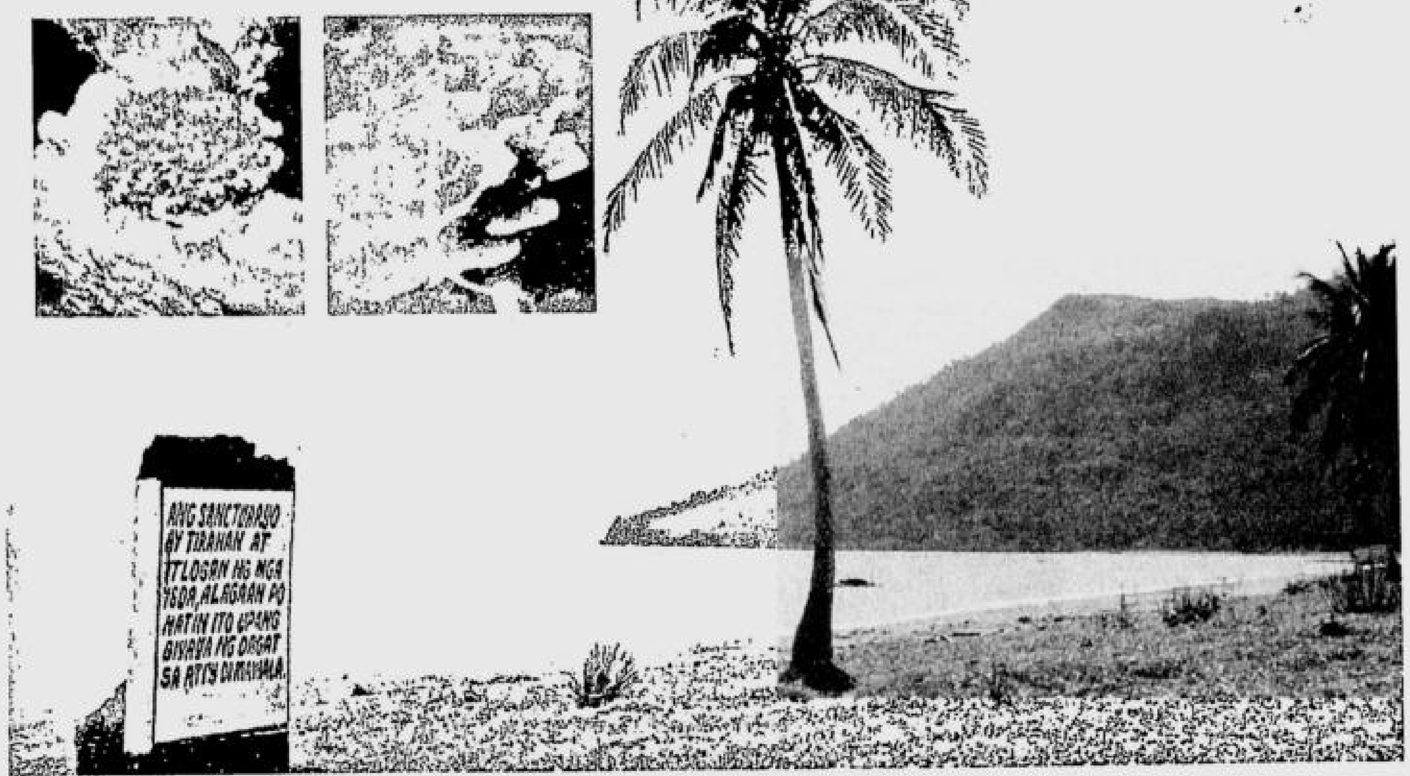
The BFAR community intervention was among the requirements of the Fisheries Sector Program (FSP), its biggest single extensive activity aimed at checking the fast destruction of fisheries resources all over the country.

Started in 1991 with funding from the Asian Development Bank, the five-year FSP integrated awareness education, organizing, skills training, alternative livelihood development, mangrove rehabilitation, environmental advocacy and artificial reef development.

In Bicol, the program was implemented in the Ragay Gulf, San Miguel Bay, Lagonoy Gulf and Sorsogon Bay.

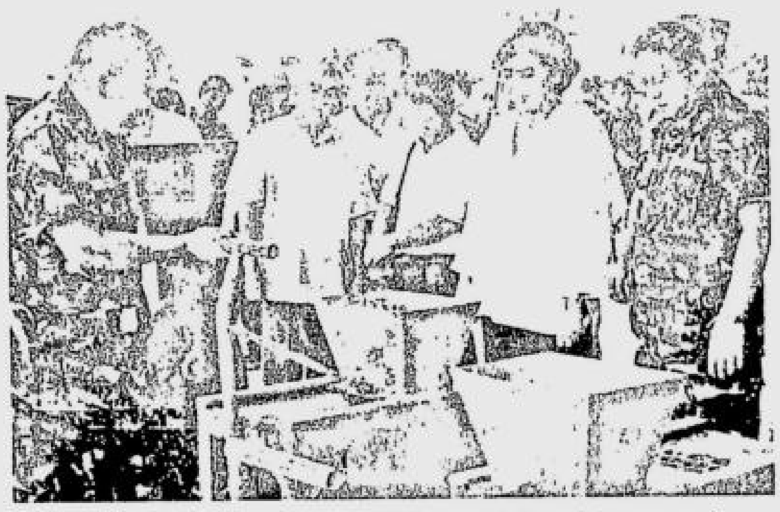
To continue the intervention, the Fisheries Resource Management Program (FRMP) was launched in 1997.

BFAR experts have also trained the fisherfolk on artificial reefs technology, combined with awareness education on its use and advantages.



AMONG the corals found in the Caranan fish sanctuary in Pasacao, Camarines Sur, are (inset, from left) the tabletop (*Acropora sp.*) and the elephant ear (*Montipora sp.*).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BFAR



LT. GEN. Pedro Cabuay Jr. (right), Solcom chief, explains to northern Quezon officials the mechanics of the charcoal briquetting machine being demonstrated by Maj. Gen. Efren Orbon, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division.

DELFIN T. MALLARI JR

Military gives livelihood project to former rebs

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Real, Quezon

THE MILITARY'S SOUTHERN LUZON Command has introduced charcoal briquette-making project, a potential dollar-earner using forest waste products, to former communist rebels and calamity victims in northern Quezon to provide them an additional source of livelihood.

On Sept. 13, Solcom chief Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr. and other officials turned over two manual charcoal briquette-making machines, one electric motor-run hammer mill, and construction materials to the Reina Kalahi Farmers Federation during the launching of the Kalahi (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan) coordination center for the towns of Real-Infanta-General Nakar (Reina).

"These machines would go a long way to help alleviate the economic situation of former New People's Army rebels and their mass base and also some of the calamity victims," Cabuay said.

The charcoal briquette, which is locally sold at P15 a kilo, is now being readied by the government as another export item, he added.

Copied model

"We will be needing tons of charcoal briquettes in the coming months to be exported abroad," Cabuay said.

He said the machine model was replicated by the EcoSystem Research and Development Bureau, the research arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources based in Los Baños, Laguna.

"We've already distributed more than 20 units of the manual briquettor and hammer mill to different organizations. The machines are made by the soldiers themselves, thus reducing production cost," the Solcom commander said.

A briquettor costs P25,000 in the commercial market, while a motorized hammer mill is priced at P35,000.

Gerry Romantico, president of the farmers group, said soldiers had already trained them in charcoal briquette making.

"We can produce a minimum of 100 kilos of charcoal briquettes a day from a single machine," he said.

Biomass waste

Members of the association have been thrilled by the export prospects of the finished product, he added.

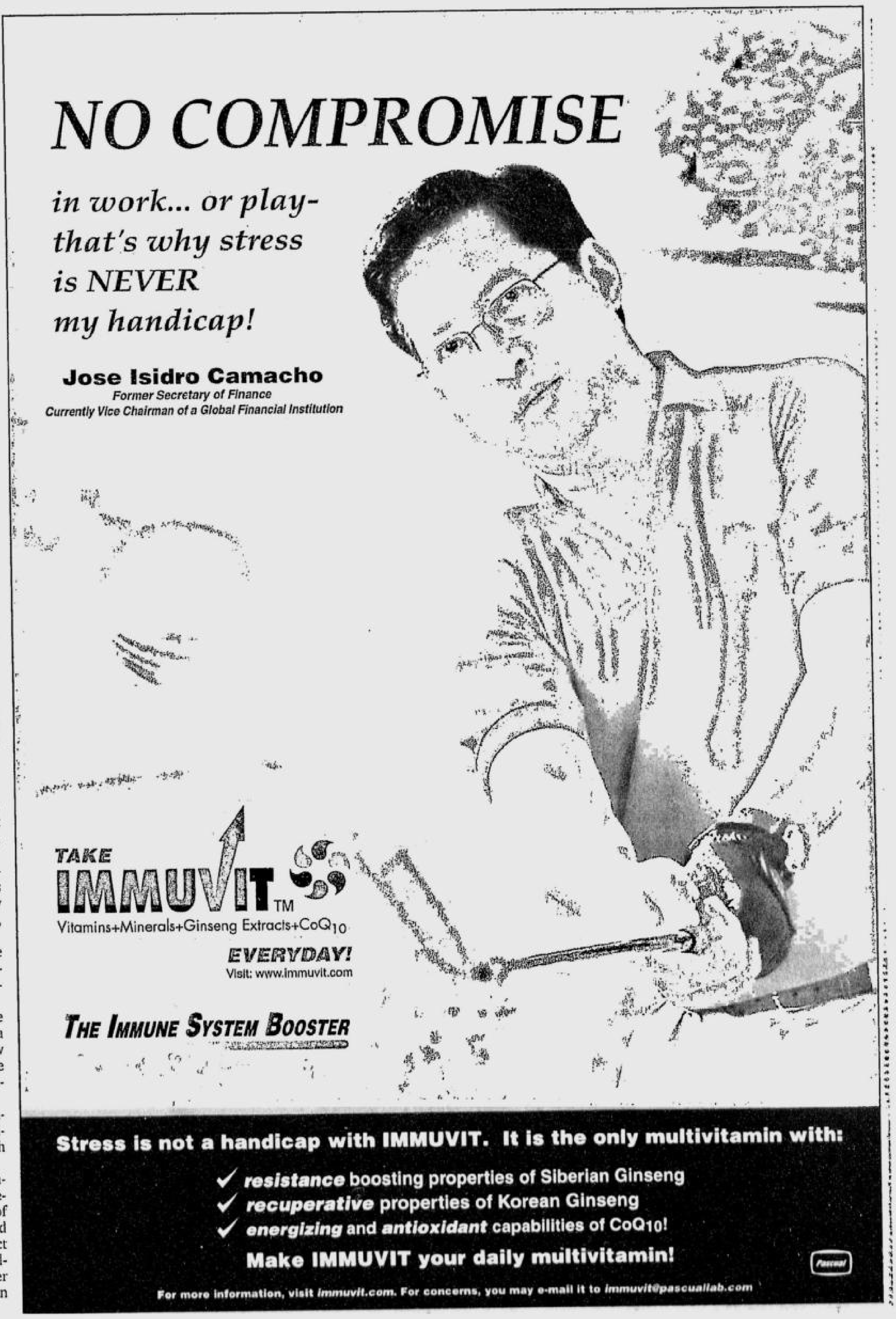
Jun Santos, DENR representative, said the charcoal briquettes were produced from ordinary biomass waste, such as grass, twigs, leaves and tree branches.

The hammer mill crushes the burned raw materials and compacted into doughnut-like briquettes.

During a demonstration, the charcoal briquette emitted a smokeless steady heat with low clean flame when burned. The charcoal had a longer burning period.

According to Santos, the generated heat from the charcoal briquette has a higher BTU (British thermal unit).

Mayors Grace America of Infanta, Arsenio Ramallosa of Real, and Hernando Avellaneda of General Nakar have expressed confidence that the project would go a long way in providing livelihood among former rebels and calamity victims in their towns.



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Across the NATION

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NPAs kill 4 rival rebs in Negros

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—SUSPECTED NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA) hit men on Tuesday killed four members of a rival rebel group and seriously wounded another in front of a convenient store in a hinterland village in Calatrava town, Negros Occidental.

The police identified the fatalities as Eleuterio Lumanot, Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) team leader; and his men Dionisio Costanilla, Carlos Delima and Eusebio Alcobar Jr., 17, all of Calatrava town, about 142 km north of here.

Felipe Lumanot, Eleuterio's brother, suffered multiple bullet wounds and remained in serious condition at the district hospital in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

Delima and Costanilla were the brothers-in-law of the Lumanots.

Senior Supt. Charles Calima, Negros Occidental police director, said the RPA-ABB members were hanging out in front of the store owned by Irenea Maasin in Sitio Camachili, Barangay Dolis, when the attack happened at about 3:30 p.m.

Camachili is a hinterland village located 12 km from the town proper of Calatrava, an influenced area of the RPA-ABB.

Calima said the NPA rebels used their short firearms when they repeatedly shot at the victims.

The assailants then took the long firearms of the victims and used these to shoot them at close range to make sure that they were indeed dead.

Taken from the victims were two M-16 rifles, an M-14 rifle, a Garrand rifle and an M203 grenade launcher, said Calima.

Calima said separate teams of policemen and Army soldiers were conducting pursuit operations against the assailants in northern Negros Occidental.

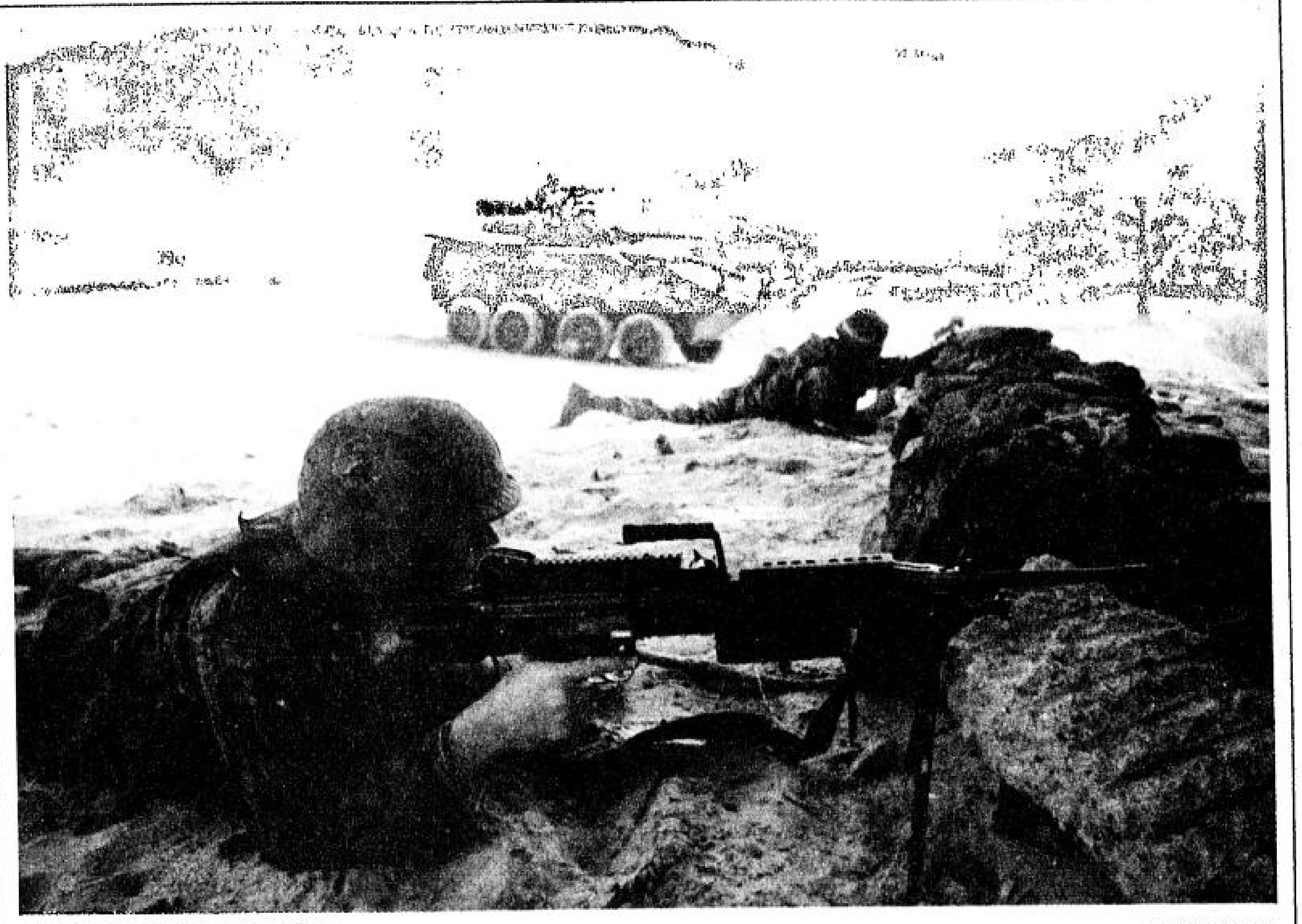
He added alerts had been raised over possible raids and killings by the NPA especially because they acquired new firearms, which they took from the rebels.

Col. Jogy Leo Fojas, 303rd Infantry Brigade commanding officer, said the NPA hit men were believed to be fresh rebel graduates on a test mission.

He said the witnesses described the assailants as young, between 20 to 25 years old, and were unfamiliar faces in the village.

Fojas said the pattern of the attack was similar to a raid conducted on a military detachment in Tuburan town, Cebu last month, which left three soldiers dead.

He added the Tuburan attack was staged by new rebel graduates on a test mission.



REAL THREAT, FAKE WAR

RICO GONZALES/AP

US Marines take positions at a beach landing exercise in Ternate, Cavite with Philippine soldiers. The annual war games have taken on an urgency as the Philippines launched US-backed offensives against terror groups in Mindanao.

Hard times make job prospects for youth dim

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE economic crisis will further dim the employment opportunities of young graduates and the National Youth Commission expressed fears that this development will further swell the number of unemployed people.

Based on the findings of a 2004 national youth assessment study, 1.7 million youth are unemployed, Rosel Isidro, presidential staff officer of NYC's planning, monitoring and evaluation division, said.

She said the number comprised 49 percent of the country's 35 million unemployed people.

Unless youth services and the institutional capacities of government and nongovernment organizations are harnessed to the fullest, there would be a reason to worry that the country's young people looked headed toward a bleak future, she said.

Isidro and NYC senior officers revealed the findings of the youth assessment study before a provincial youth congress held at the capitol here recently.

Isidro, however, refused to drag the NYC to comment on the effects of the political problems besetting the current administration on youth programs.

"The NYC is a nonpolitical organization. We just concentrate on addressing youth concerns and problems," she told the INQUIRER.

But Board Member Juan Nazarro Jr. said the youth must be more conscious of their participation in understanding political and economic issues that confront them.

Speaking before the youth congress, he said the "youth must define their role and not to sit idly, by actively participating in activities designed to make them more aware of pressing national and regional concerns."

In Benguet alone, he said, the youth must keep abreast of developments that directly affect their parents, like issues on mining and vegetable importation.

Isidro said that the youth's situation now "really looked discouraging."

The youth assessment study, she said, revealed that only 50 percent of elementary graduates qualify for high school admission and that not all high school students get to finish secondary school.

"This increases the number of student dropouts," she said.

Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 20 2005

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Bird flu watch up in Paoay

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PAOAY, ILOCOS NORTE—Health officials are keeping a tight watch on Paoay Lake here as a potential area that could attract migratory birds possibly infected with the avian influenza virus.

Dr. Loida Chee, provincial veterinarian, said the lake could easily draw migratory birds in search for food because the inland body of water serves as a natural food source.

"We strongly advise locals not to disturb these birds while they are in flight around the lake to prevent any distraction and, in the process, avoid any possibility for them to mix with local birds," Chee said.

The provincial health office has also declared small farm reservoirs and rice fields around Ilocos Norte as "high risk" areas that could draw migratory birds.

"Where there is food and marshy area, expect migratory birds to be drawn to them. We consider all migratory birds as possible carriers of the bird flu virus," Chee said.

She said pigeons and wild ducks have been spotted on the lake and in farm reservoirs in previous months

ROUNDUP

Comfort woman leader dies

A LEADING figure in the comfort woman movement died Sunday, a few days after voicing the hope that the Japanese government would finally compensate victims of sexual slavery perpetrated by Japanese soldiers during World War II. Ammonita Balajadia, president of the Lolas Kampanyeras, died in her hometown of San Fernando, Pampanga, following a battle with cancer. She was 77. Lola Itang, as she was known in the movement here and abroad, became a forceful and articulate spokesperson of Filipino women who were coerced into sexual servitude by the Japanese imperial army.

DOJ junks raps vs Germans

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has affirmed the decision of the chief of state prosecutor dismissing the estafa charges against eight German executives of automotive maker Audi AG which was earlier filed by Audi's former distributor in the Philippines at a regional trial court in Alaminos City, Pangasinan. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, in a resolution, said the petition filed by Auto Prominence Corp. (APC), the former Audi distributor, failed to show there was any reversible error in the decision of the prosecutor ordering the withdrawal of the complaint. Cleared were Prof. Dr. Martin Winkertorn, Dr. Horst Neumann, Dr. Andreas Schleff, Erich Schmitt, Rupert Stadler, Dr. Jochem Helzmann, Ralph Weyler and Sunil Kaul.

Judge wounded in ambush

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A judge was wounded while his driver was killed when they were ambushed in Baggao, Cagayan on Thursday. Police said Judge Nathaniel Pattugalan of the municipal trial court in Baggao and his driver, Antonio dela Cruz, were on their way home to Camalaniugan town at past 2 p.m. when the suspects, who were armed with M-14 and M-16 rifles, fired at their car in Barangay Masical in Baggao. Dela Cruz died instantly while Pattugalan was taken to the Cagayan Valley Medical Center here.

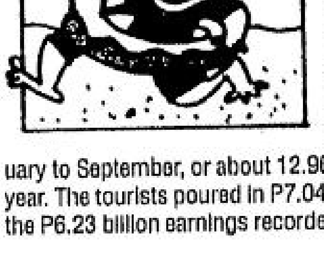
Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

American dies in road crash

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—An American died on Monday after his car smashed into a row of eucalyptus trees along Km 86 of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) in Mabalacat, Pampanga, reports reaching the police said. Peter Coghill Murphy, 49, lost control of his Mitsubishi Pajero as he tried to overtake another car past the NLEx's Sta. Ines tollgate in Mabalacat at 2 a.m. Monday. Murphy's car fell into a ditch and hit the trees. He was driving alone Murphy, a resident of Blossomville Subdivision in Tarlac City, died before reaching the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital here.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Locals dominate Boracay


LIGO NA TAYO!

ILOILO CITY—Domestic tourists have dominated the number of people spending their vacation on the world-famous Boracay Island. Records from the Department of Tourism in Western Visayas (DOT-6) showed the number of local tourists reached 259,060, or more than twice the 107,807 foreigners who went to the island from January to September this year. The number of overseas Filipino workers reached 16,222. At least 339,142 tourists went to the island from January to September, or about 12.96 percent higher than in the same period last year. The tourists poured in P7.04 billion to the island's economy, higher than the P6.23 billion earnings recorded in the same period last year.

Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

Erratum

IN THE Roundup story "3 gang men held at checkpoint" yesterday, the family name Terte was inadvertently used, instead of Quintela, in the last sentence as the one who had just served a 10-year jail term for robbery with murder

MMDA suspends 'no contact' scheme

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) has suspended a traffic scheme that a Makati City court declared unconstitutional.

On Friday, the MMDA stopped implementation of the No Contact Traffic Apprehension (NCTA) scheme. The Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) issued an injunction for the scheme last May. The MMDA suspended the Metropolitan Traffic Ticketing (MTT) scheme earlier.

"MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando ordered the suspension because of legal questions. We will temporarily stop until our appeal has been resolved," said Mon Santiago, MMDA Metropolitan Road Rules Enforcement System (MRRES) chief who also heads the agency's NCTA Unit.

The MMDA had petitioned the Court of Appeals to reverse the lower court decision. The agency's motion for reconsideration was denied by the Makati regional trial court (RTC) that ordered the MMDA to stop enforcing the MTT and NCTA following a suit filed by transport groups questioning the schemes. Under the NCTA, traffic enforcers in strategic thoroughfares used still and video cameras to document traffic violations. Enforcers could cite and fine errant motorists, even without meeting them personally. The suspension of the NCTA scheme followed the deferment of the MTT system, with the agency reverting to the old Traffic Violation Receipts (TVR) system on orders of the Cabinet.

Under the MTT ticketing scheme, the confiscation of licenses of errant drivers was stopped. Traffic fine payment was simplified by allowing motorists to pay in Metrobank branches.

The NCTA suspension would put on hold the agency's plan to run after at least 155 erring bus units that incurred a total of 6,708 violations since April this year. Violators came from 31 bus companies. The buses were supposed to be impounded for failing to pay for the summons, despite several notices from the MMDA. Together with a P2,000 surcharge for failing to pay on time, the bus companies owed the agency a total of P1.83 million.

Santiago said that although there would be no apprehensions and impounding, violations would remain in MMDA records.

Santiago admitted the NCTA suspension could weaken the MMDA's apprehension capability.

"The efficiency in apprehension is affected. First, the NCTA is efficient because enforcers with cameras could catch an average of 100 violators a day, while others could make, at the most, 10 arrests," Santiago explained.

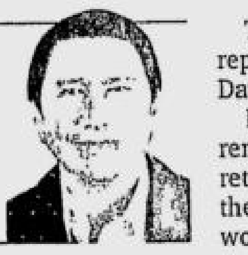
The NCTA also allowed a faster and more honest apprehension of violators as it did away with personal contact between violator and enforcer. Enforcers did not have to stop violators so they could issue tickets, thus helping eliminate corruption, the official added.

Santiago said the NCTA Unit's 30 operatives or digital enforcers, would be assigned to other operations in the meantime. The video and still cameras would be used to monitor traffic.

That story about Julius Babao

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



IGNACIO BUNYE, THE HONORable press secretary, said that what President Macapagal-Arroyo told me about ABS-CBN broadcaster Julius Babao was all "off the record."

Bunye should have first asked his boss whether I had her permission to have her quoted on the record. I asked the President whether or not she was willing to go on the record, and she said yes.

I also asked Bunye's boss if I could have the story as an INQUIRER exclusive. And she said yes.

The President told this writer over lunch last Thursday that she found "very disturbing" a military intelligence report saying that Babao put up bail for Tyrone del Rosario Santos, aka Dawud Santos.

Dawud Santos, according to military intelligence, is second in command in the Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM), a group of Muslim converts allied with Abu Sayyaf and the international terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Dawud is charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives before the regional trial courts of Pangasinan and Tarlac.

During the hearings on his petition for bail, which Babao attended, Dawud's lawyer told the Quezon City regional trial court that his client could not afford to post the bail set at P200,000.

But after talking to Babao during a court recess, the lawyer, Nicomedes Martelino, said bail would be put up, said the report from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

It's surprising why the lawyer would say that his client could already post bail after talking to the broadcaster when minutes earlier he said his client could not afford it.

That's the basis of the ISAFP report that Babao put up bail for Dawud.

Now, back to Bunye. Let me remind the honorable press secretary, who talks too much for the good of his boss, that I wouldn't have reached this stage in my career if I didn't respect my sources' request not to be quoted.

Off-the-record conversations with news sources should be respected. Always. A journalist who violates a promise of confidentiality will eventually result in the drying up of his information pool.

I am what I am today because I have never violated the trust of my sources of information. Let me tell Bunye that in my journalism career I went to jail twice for refusing to divulge to the courts the identities of my sources.

Now, back to Babao. How come he was so protective of Dawud that he had him ride on an ABS-CBN van after his release from detention?

And how come, as the AFP intelligence chief Rear Adm. Tirso Danga said, Babao criticized the military for Dawud's arrest?

A journalist should be objective when he's covering a controversial case. He should not take sides.

When Babao posted bail for Dawud and had him ride on an ABS-CBN van, he was already taking the side of a person accused of terrorism.

The only charge that the government could come up with against Dawud was illegal possession of firearms and explosives because the country still doesn't have an antiterrorism law or national security act like the ones they have in Malaysia and Singapore.

The explosives seized from Dawud, the military said, would have been used in bombing public places.

If Dawud Santos jumps bail—and there's a big chance he will—Babao should be made to account for his becoming a fugitive from justice.

Babao should also be held responsible for innocent lives lost if Dawud goes on a bombing spree while in hiding.

Dump still open

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MONTALBAN SOLID WASTE Disposal Facility will remain open until the end of the year, Mayor Pedro Cuerpo of Rodriguez, Rizal said yesterday.

Cuerpo said he was willing to wait until early next year for the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to deliver on its "promise" to the facility.

The mayor closed for two days last week the facility that services 10 cities and towns in Metro Manila, after the MMDA turned down his proposal to increase dumping fees. Cuerpo had a change of heart and reopened the facility after a meeting with MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando. The MMDA said it could not agree to the rate increase this year because the raise was not included in the current budget.

Cuerpo said the MMDA promised to consider incorporating the proposed increase in the agency's budget next year. The MMDA had paid P25 million to the local government and the private operator of the Montalban facility, Cuerpo said. When it was closed last week, the MMDA owed the facility P183 million.

Though the mayor was willing to wait until early next year for the proposed fee hike to be approved, he said he would still ask the MMDA to pay its arrears. He also wanted the MMDA to close the Payatas Controlled Dump in Quezon City, which still accepts garbage. Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act mandates that all open and controlled dumps be closed next year.

At least one environmental organization is unhappy about the continued operation of the Montalban facility. "We are pushing for the permanent closure of the garbage dump," Bangon Kalikasan Movement president Joey Papa told the INQUIRER. He said it was time for the metropolis to implement strictly waste segregation at household and barangay levels.

Although Cuerpo said the 14-hectare facility in his town met legal requirements, Papa said the continued operation of the facility violated the law. The dump, which received some 1,500 tons of garbage from Metro Manila daily, accepted mixed garbage, not segregated waste, Papa said.

"The law provides that landfills should accept only residual waste," he added.

Integrated Bar of the Philippines

STATEMENT

We, the Board of Governors of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, are outraged by the news reports of an impending executive clemency for the convicted child-rapist, former Congressman Romeo G. Jalosjos.

Jalosjos was convicted in a public trial, without regard to his position and on the merits of the case. Two (2) life terms of imprisonment were imposed on him by the lower court, and the same judgment and penalty were twice affirmed by the Supreme Court.,

Any executive clemency for Jaloslos is obnoxious, anathema, and in complete disregard of public sentiment and all laws, rules and regulations on the matter. The fact that Jalosjos may be ill is irrelevant. Life imprisonment means death in prison.

Jalosjos is fortunate that he has extraordinary financial resources to receive excellent medical care despite his imprisonment. Public reports reveal that he is often brought to Makati Medical Centre or some other 5-star medical facility for "treatment".

Political considerations, exercised for private benefit, must have no place in public life nor may political accommodations thwart the ends of justice.

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

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Unending vigil for 'desaparecido'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FAMILIES of victims of involuntary disappearance, or *desaparecidos*, again gathered in front of a memorial at the Baclaran Church yesterday to remember their missing loved ones. In photo are Phoebe Gamata Crismo, Paula S. Romero and Louie Crismo.
JOAN BONDOC

A TWO-DECADE-OLD PROMISE SUSTAINS Phoebe Crismo's search for her husband who had disappeared without a trace.

" 'Bury my remains in a place where ever you may go," Crismo recalled her husbands parting words. She promised she would do so.

Missing

Crismo said she and her husband, Romeo, were just on their fifth month of marriage when he went missing.

Yesterday, she joined 30 other families of victims of involuntary disappearance or *desaparecidos* at the Bantayog ng mga Desaparecido, a memorial at the Baclaran Church, Parañaque City, to mark All Souls' Day.

The monument shows a sculpture of a mother and child; carved on it are the names of many of those who disappeared since 1971.

Offerings

In the absence of tombs to visit, families of *desaparecidos*, carrying pictures of their missing loved ones, gather at the monument to offer flowers and prayers.

Crismo admitted that though it has been 25 years since she last saw her husband, the pain is still there. "Romeo was a good man. He deserves a decent burial," she said.

Romeo was a militant student leader who later became a professor at St. Louis College and the Cagayan Colleges in Tuguegarao City.

"Anyone who spoke against the government then faced arrest," Crismo said.

Only 24 then, Romeo was last seen in the afternoon of Aug. 12, 1980 at the gate of St. Louis College.

"But he was never able to enter the campus. The military carried him off on board a blue Tamaraw," she said, relating the information she gathered from Romeo's students.

After his abduction, Crismo, then a high school teacher in Isabela, would wake up early in the morning to look for him in military camps before going to her classes.

Romeo's younger brother, Louie who had become her close friend, accompanied the young teacher to the camps in the search.

The quest continued for two years, until the military told them Romeo was already dead.

"They told me that they don't keep people that long," Crismo said.

The military allegedly advised her to "accept the truth" and move on.

But that didn't stop her. "I believed that I would find him. I thought that by sheer persistence and the concerted efforts of church-based organizations, I would eventually find him," she said.

The search for Romeo stopped in 1987.

She and Louie, who found themselves in love with each other, got married and bore four children.

Memorial service

The couple held a memorial service for Romeo before their wedding, one way of asking for his blessings, Crismo said.

"But our search for justice does not end there," she said, adding that the pain and feeling of loss still haunted her.

"The pain comes back because the issue of his disappearance remains unresolved. It is one part of my life that needs closure," she said.

Yesterday, Crismo renewed that vow. Most of all, she said she intended to keep her promise: to bury him in a place close to her.

The Crismos are one of the founders of Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), a nationwide organization of families, relatives and friends of *desaparecidos*.

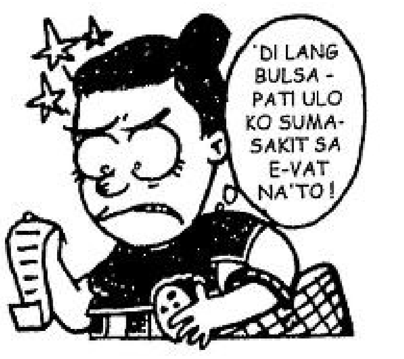
METROBRIEFS

No rallies today, please

AS the nation celebrates Eid'l Fitr today, a Muslim leader asked fellow Filipinos to help observe their special day by maintaining peace and order in the streets. "We ask our Christian brothers and sisters to respect our holiday as we respect theirs," Datu Amerol-Gulam Ambiong, president of the National Muslim Peace and Order Coordinating Council (NMPOCC) said in a phone interview. "We would appreciate it if they postpone activities such as rallies and demonstrations, which could disturb our prayers and subsequent celebrations," Ambiong said, adding that they consider Eid'l Fitr "as the most important Muslim holiday. Ambiong said they would hold their prayers from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. in mosques and Muslim communities all over the country. Other Muslim groups would also gather at Liwasang Bonifacio and Rizal Park in Manila and at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. Eid'l Fitr marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, during which Muslims abstain from food, water and sex for 30 days from dawn to dusk. It is one of the two major Islamic holidays in the Muslim world and one of seven Islamic holidays recognized in the local Shariah (Islamic) law contained in Presidential Decree No. 1083. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Marketing blues

COOKING your favorite recipes will soon cost you more. Prices of vegetables slightly rose starting the other day at the biggest public market in the metropolis. And vendors at the Mutya ng Pasig Public Market are bracing for further increases in the next few days. Blame it on the rising prices of oil and electricity as well as the approaching Christmas season. Prices of vegetables from Baguio City skyrocketed yesterday, shocking Virgie B., a vendor. She sold a kilo of carrots yesterday at P75 a kilo compared to the P50 going rate the other day. A kilo of cabbage costs P40 a kilo, when it used to be just P30. "Dealers told us the supply was scarce. They usually increase prices when the supply is low," Virgie told the INQUIRER. The long holiday break could have contributed to the low supply since workers also took a break, she added. "The prices will surely rise in the next few days because of the recent oil price increase. Our dealers use trucks to transport their goods," another vendor said. Because of the implementation of the value added tax (VAT), which imposed a 10-percent tax on previously exempt products, prices of oil products rose the other day. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

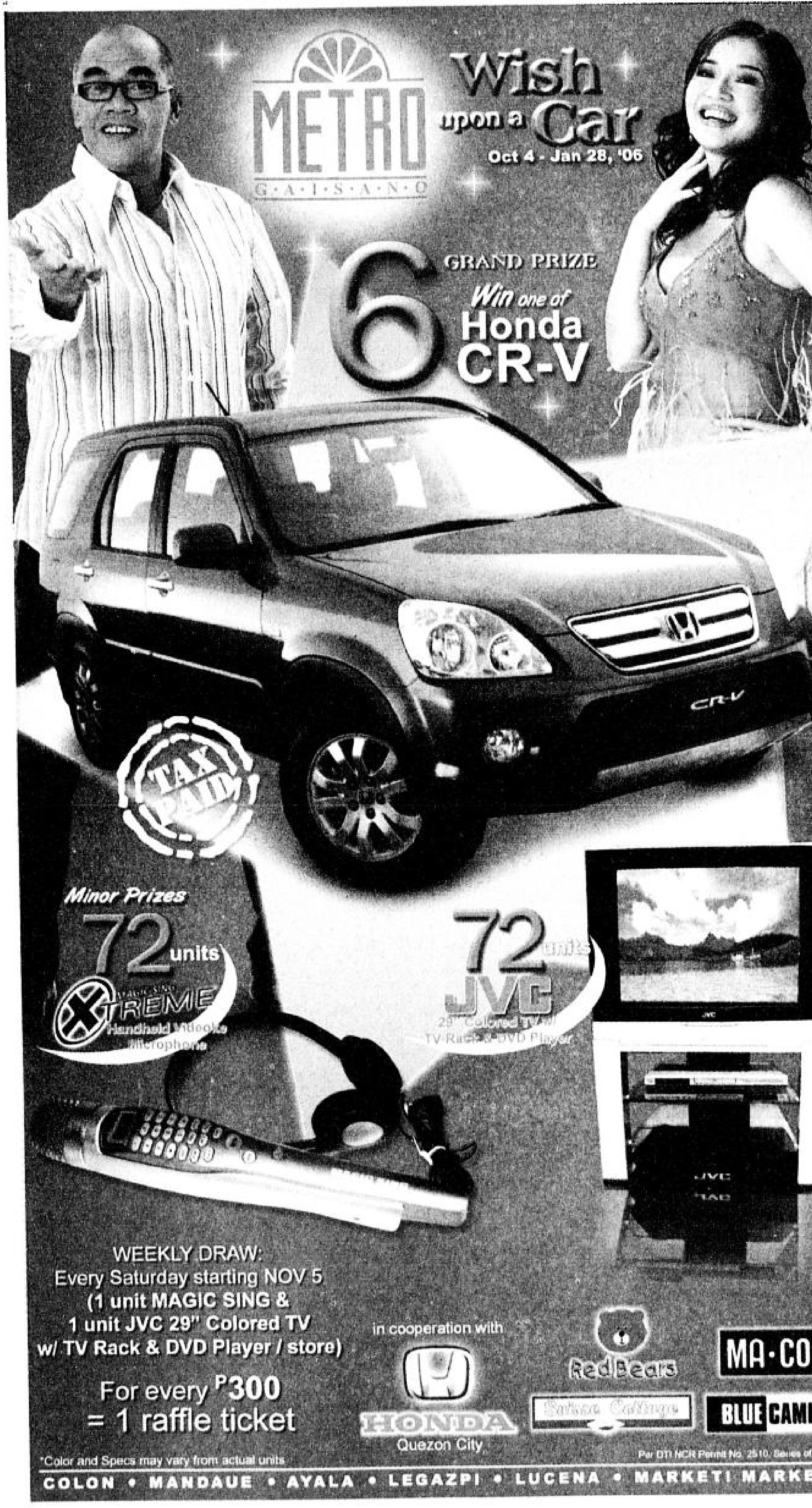

'DI LANG BULSA - PATI ULO KO SUMASAKIT SA E-VAT NA'TO!

QC hospitals get donations

A RETIRED physician based in the United States has donated $200,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies to the Quezon City government for the city-run QC General Hospital. Dr. Mario Espiritu, who practiced internal medicine for 34 years in the US, has donated a 40-foot van containing hospital beds, incubators, birthing tables, syringes and needles, among other medical equipment to the city, according to the city's public affairs and information services office (Paiso). The equipment will be distributed to different wards of the QCGH, including the trauma, surgery and rehabilitation wards, among others. The Novaliches District Hospital will also benefit from the donation. Espiritu has made a similar contribution to Pasay City, according to Paiso. *DJ Yap*

Studes to learn QC history

QUEZON City students will soon be learning about not just former Presidents but past city mayors with a plan to integrate the city's 66-year historical development in the curriculum of public high schools. Students will not only study former Philippine Presidents like Manuel Quezon, after whom the city is named, and Elpidio Quirino, among others, but former mayors such as Tomas Morato and Ponciano Bernardo. Local officials will draft a book, "Historical Development of a Premiere City" as reference for students, teaching them about the roots of the city Quezon founded in 1939, said Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista. The local school board, on instructions from the city government, would integrate the city's historical development in the geography-history-civics subject of public high schools, he said. The city government would consult historians, architects and other experts for the project that the city plans to begin next school year, Bautista added. *DJ Yap*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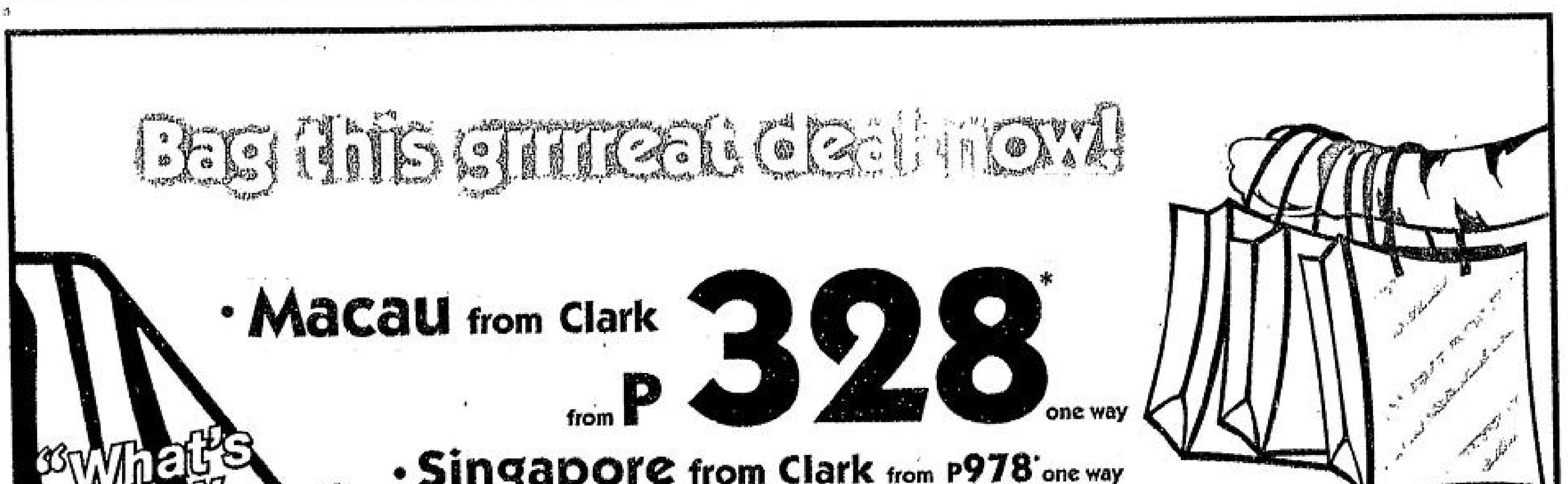
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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

RED BULL'S Quemont Greer (left) attempts a tip-in against Alaska's Tee McClary. RYAN LIM

Alaska crushes Red Bull

GAMES TOMORROW (*Ynares Center*)
4:40 p.m.—Air21 vs Talk N Text
7:25 p.m.—Purefoods Chunkee vs Sta. Lucia Realty
GAMES SATURDAY (*Tacloban City*)
4:30 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

ARTEMUS MCCLARY FINISHED AN assist shy of another triple double as Alaska survived a fight-marred encounter against Red Bull Barako by posting a resounding 81-64 win last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

McClary drilled in 23 of his 31 points in the second half, hauled down 19 rebounds and had nine assists for the Aces' fourth straight win that shoved them into a tie with the second-running Purefoods Chunkee Giants at 5-2.

In the second game, Sean Lampley hit a jumper at the buzzer as Ginebra came back from a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat San Miguel, 74-72.

The Kings trailed, 55-67, but held San Miguel scoreless in the last four minutes to hike their record to 5-3. San Miguel dropped to 1-5.

Don Allado and playmaker Celino Cruz were ejected with barely two minutes left and the Aces ahead, 72-61, following an altercation that saw Allado crashing to the floor on a hard foul by Mick Pennisi.

"It's always a battle when we play Red Bull," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "Those things excite the fans but it's a matter of keeping one's poise. Don (Allado) lost it for a minute."

Allado slapped Enrico Villanueva, who was trying to prevent him from going at Pennisi, while Cruz, rushing from the other side of the court, swung at the Alaska power forward as officials tried to put things under control.

Play was disrupted for almost 10 minutes even as Allado and Cruz face automatic one-game suspensions. Pennisi escaped ejection.

"There's so much at stake in this game that it didn't surprise me that it happened," Cone said. "Hopefully, it does not go beyond here."

The scores:

First Game

ALASKA 81—Mcclary 31, Dela Cruz 17, Hugnatan 9, allado 9, Cablay 5, Thoss 3, Cariaso 3, Alvarez 2, Cortez 2.

RED BULL 64—Greer 17, Tugade 13, Villanueva 11, Bagulo 9, Najorda 6, Fonacier 3, Cruz 3, Valenzuela 2, Bugia 0, Ybañez 0, Robinson 0, Pennisi 0.

Quarters: 9-15, 29-33, 52-46, 81-64

Second Game

GINEBRA 74—Menk 20, Lampley 14, Santos 14, Adducul 11, Caguioa 9, Holper 6, Macapagal 0, Sotto 0, Echavez 0, Salvacion 0.

SAN MIGUEL 72—Hill 20, Seigle 13, Peña 12, Racela 8, Calagulo 7, Hontiveros 6, Ildefonso 4, Belasco 2, Hubalde 0, Villoria 0.

Quarters: 12-21, 35-26, 52-57, 74-72

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Montaña, Hapee eye strong starts

GAMES TODAY (*JCSGO Gym*)
2 p.m.—Far Eastern Ins. vs Hapee-PCU
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Montana

THEY MAY HAVE LESS AVAILABLE players, but Montaña Pawnshop's seasoned roster is still expected to come out strong in the PBL Heroes Cup.

With streaky shooter Alex Compton at the helm, the Jewels go up against the revamped Harbour Centre at 4 p.m. today at the JCSGO Gym.

Hapee Toothpaste, bannered by the core of NCAA runner-up Philippine Christian University, also guns for a strong start versus debuting Far Eastern Insurance at 2 p.m.

The Jewels have only 11 players in their lineup after the loss of several key men. Former Most Valuable Player Jon Dan Salvador and veteran Al Magpayo have moved on to the pros, while point guard Froilan Baguion reportedly had a falling out with the team.

Coach Robert Sison noted, however, that the Jewels still have a strong backcourt led by Compton and Cebu standout Reed Juntilla.

Also returning for the Jewels are swingman Eric dela Cuesta, forward Ariel Capus and playmaker Al Vergara, who all played crucial roles in their Open conference championship run last February and in their Unity Cup runner-up finish last June.

In contrast, Harbour Centre is hoping to bank on youth and agility with the acquisition of top cagers from the UAAP and the NCAA.

Leading the Portmasters are Joseph Yeo and Jerwin Gaco of La Salle, NCAA Rookie of the Year Kelvin dela Peña of Mapua, Marcy Arellano and Earn Saguindel of University of the East, and Red Vicente of San Sebastian.

"We've only completed our lineup two weeks ago and we're the youngest team in the league, but our advantage will be our speed," said new Harbour Centre coach Dindo Pumaren.

Hapee coach Junel Baculi is also leaning on a bunch of collegiate stars with former NCAA Most Valuable Player Gabby Espinas, forward Robert Sanz, guard Jason Castro and vastly improved center Beau Belga. *Jasmine W. Payo*

POC ready for court battle against BAP

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC Committee is ready for the Basketball Association of the Philippines lawsuit.

"We will meet them in court," said POC chair Robert Aventajado yesterday. "They are making it (basketball problem) complicated already."

The 17-page lawsuit, filed by BAP legal counsel Bonifacio Alentajan before a Regional Trial Court in Manila yesterday afternoon, seeks to reinstate the BAP in the local Olympic movement.

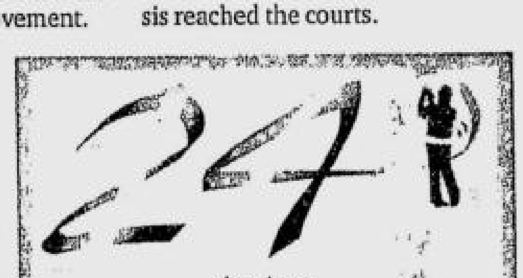
It was accompanied by all the correspondence of the POC, BAP and the sport's international federation since the cage controversy first broke out in May.

The BAP suit, though, failed to point out in the first page that it is no longer recognized by the POC, having been expelled by the POC general assembly last June 30.

Christian Tan, BAP executive vice-president, and Angelito Alvarez, deputy sec-gen, signed as plaintiffs of the case. Named respondents were POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., secgen Steve Hontiveros and Aventajado.

Basketball competition is out of the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games after the Fiba rejected a POC appeal two weeks ago.

This is actually the second time since 2001 that the basketball crisis reached the courts.



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Euro boxers help RP pugs sharpen fists for SEAG

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre sports editor

BURNHAM PARK, ONE OF BAGUIO CITY'S famous landmarks, will host the first of three Touch Mobile Go for Gold boxing tilts featuring leading European fighters against their Filipino counterparts on Nov. 5.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines Manny T. Lopez yesterday said the events will spice up the International Joint Training Camp designed to toughen Filipino boxers in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games and at the same time prepare the visitors for the coming World Boxing Championships slated Nov. 11 in China.

Lopez said bets from Australia, Brazil and Sri Lanka are already in the country's summer capital preparing for the much-awaited slugfest which will also be held on Nov. 7 (Atrium, SM Baguio) and Nov. 9 in San Fernando, La Union.

The 10-man Italian team is arriving today, while Germany, France and Ireland are coming on Friday.

Asian champions light-flyweight Harry Tañamor and bantamweight Joan Tipon are expected to banner the country's bid.

"I am confident that our boxers will benefit [from this]," noted Lopez, a member of the technical and rules committee of the International Amateur Boxing Association.

He thanked Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon for hosting the event, the Velasco-Alberto Sanidad law office for the SM event and Gov. Victor Ortega, Vice Gov. Aureo Nisce and Mayor Jane Ortega for the San Fernando, La Union, tilt.

Athens Olympics silver medalist Jerome Thomas of France leads a stellar cast of European amateur boxers.

Joining Thomas is bronze medalist Rahimov Rustanhodza of Germany and super heavyweight Roberto Cammarelle, who won a bronze for Italy in Athens.

Other boxers are Germans Andres Propp, featherweight; Enrico Wagner, lightweight and Konstantin Buga, welterweight; Italians Alfonso Pinto, light-flyweight; Vincenzo Picardi, flyweight; Domenico Valentino, lightweight; Carmine Cirillo, light-welterweight and Clemente Russo, heavyweight; Ireland's Conor Ahern, flyweight, Eric Donovan, featherweight; and Roy Sheahan, welterweight.

Spurs get rings, start season with a victory

SAN ANTONIO—TONY PARKER SCORED 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and newcomer Michael Finley added 11 points in the period as San Antonio defeated Denver, 102-91, Tuesday to start its National Basketball Association title defense.

Before the game, San Antonio unveiled its third championship banner in the rafters of the SBC Center, and NBA commissioner David Stern was on hand for the team's returning players to receive their diamond-studded title rings.

"I'd like to thank you for your continued support year in and year out," starting forward Tim Duncan told a cheering home crowd. "We've had some good times and we'd like to bring another championship back to San Antonio."

The Spurs nearly opened that bid on the wrong foot, trailing for most of the second half until Finley hit a six-meter (19-foot) shot to put the Spurs up 79-78 with about nine minutes remaining in the game.

"The guys have welcomed me with open arms and I am getting more comfortable," Finley said. "I knew what I was getting into. When I signed, (coach Gregg) Popovich told me my role would be to come off the bench."

Finley, who finished with 16 points, then hit another jumper followed by a 3-pointer.

The Spurs went 13-for-16 from the field in the fourth quarter.

Parker, the lightning-quick point guard, has been working with shooting guru and former Philippine team standout Chip Engelland on improving his mid-range game.

He showed immediate results as he made 13-of-20 shots, many of them from the perimeter.

Duncan had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs and Manu Ginobili added 10 points.

Carmelo Anthony led Denver with 23 points, while Kenyon Martin added 19. Eduardo Najera scored 14 and Earl Boykins 13.

In Philadelphia, Michael Redd hit the game-tying 3-pointer in regulation Tuesday and scored 30 points to lead the Milwaukee Bucks to a 117-108 overtime win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Redd's 3-pointer with 1.6 seconds left tied the game at 102-102, brought the Bucks back from seven points down with three minutes left and helped make Terry Stotts a winner in his Milwaukee coaching debut.

TJ Ford scored 16 points and had 14 assists in his first game after cervical spine surgery cost him all of last season.

Australia's Andrew Bogut, the NBA's No. 1 draft pick who was college player of the year at Utah last season, started for the Bucks and added 13 points and nine rebounds.

Allen Iverson scored 35 points and had nine assists, and Chris Webber added 32 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Sixers.

The loss spoiled the return of Maurice Cheeks in his Philadelphia coaching debut. One of the most popular players in franchise history, Cheeks has a retired No. 10 jersey and a 1983 championship banner hanging in the rafters.

In Oklahoma City, JR Smith scored 19 points and had two electrifying dunks as New Orleans beat Sacramento, 93-67, to mark the first of 35 Hornets home games in Oklahoma City.

The celebration began with a street party outside the Ford Center, then got even more lively inside the sold-out arena as the Hornets, 18-64 last season, beat a Kings team expected to contend.

In Phoenix, Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points and grabbed 15 rebounds and Dallas erased a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Suns, 111-108, after two overtime periods.

The late-starting season-opener Tuesday ended just after midnight, local time.

Nowitzki sank a pair of long jumpers and Keith Van Horn made a 3-pointer in the second overtime. After Van Horn made one of two free throws with 23.7 seconds to play, Steve Nash missed what would have been a game-tying 3-pointer at the final buzzer.

Jason Terry added 23 points for Dallas, including the game-tying layup at the end of the first overtime.

AP, Reuters, AFP

AFTER receiving their rings (inset) for winning the title last year, the San Antonio Spurs immediately go to work for this year, riding on Tony Parker's fourth quarter heroics to defeat Marcus Camby and the Denver Nuggets. Left photo shows star forward Tim Duncan receiving his 2005 NBA championship ring from Julianna Holt, wife of Spurs owner Peter Holt, during ceremonies before the season opener.

Manotoc, RP up in Aspac seniors

By Musong R. Castillo

TOMMY MANOTOC SHOT A two-under-par 70 yesterday, leading Team Philippines to a six-stroke lead over formidable New Zealand after the first round of the 15th Asia Pacific Seniors Amateur at the Wuyi Fountain Palm layout in Jiang Men, China.

The 56-year-old Manotoc, the defending individual champion, got ample support from Francis Gaston (73), Iggy Clavecilla (74) and Philippine Sports Commissioner Richie Garcia, who turned in a 76 as the Filipinos amassed 293.

Kiwi Rodney Baltrop, despite four-putting the 18th for double, led the individual race with a 69 and boosted New Zealand also six shots clear of the third-running and defending team champion Australia (305).

Each country fields six players with the top four scores each day counting for the total team score for 54 holes. Individual play is for 72 holes.

Caloy Coscoluella (77) and reigning RP Senior champion Rolly Viray (81), playing in his first international event as a senior, did not count for the Philippines.

SPORTSWATCH

Vigan hosts cycling search final leg

A LONG, CHALLENGING AND BUMPY COURSE SIMILAR TO THOSE USED IN European circuit races awaits the riders in the final leg of the Cycling Search Invitational Series Saturday in Vigan, Ilocos Sur. Director Ric Rodriguez said the attraction of the race will be the cobble-stoned streets similar to those used in European races. The event is sponsored by San Mig Light, Pagcor Casino Filipino, Partas Transport, TCL-Sun Inc. Arnette extreme sports eyewear and Activade. The criterium bikefest is organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp. and is also backed by Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Mayor Ferdie Medina, Ronald Singson, Vigan Baluarte, Hidden Spring Mineral Water and Jollibee Vigan.

Sagupaan, Mulawin share honors

TWO TOPNOTCH ENTRIES—SAGUPAAN COMPLEXOR 3000 JTPA OF Patrick Antonio and Jun Topacio and Mulawin of Rudy Albano—share the championship of the GCAP Big Event 8–stag derby last week at the San Juan Coliseum (SJC) with seven wins each. Tomorrow, fierce encounters are again expected as GCAP members clash for the coveted Stagfighter of the Year title, this time at the Pasay City Cockpit. The 'Stagfighter' winner will be known after the 5-stag event. In a related development, SJC will present the Daytime 3-stag derby today with more than 130 fights on tap.

Big-time 5-stag event at LPC

THE BIG-TIME 5-STAG DERBY WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY AT THE LAS Piñas Coliseum. Because of the prohibitive P55,000 entry fee, only selected members from leading groups like GCAP, NCA and PCAP are expected to compete in this grand event to be hosted by Gerry Ramos. Meanwhile, the first 20 winners of LPC's regular hackfights from Monday to Sunday will receive a bonus of P1,000 each, according to coliseum manager Alex Tobias. For inquiries, contact 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Roligon derby screening set

COCKERS AND BREEDERS MAY BRING THEIR STAGS FOR SCREENING AT THE Roligon Mega Cockpit office in connection with the Clean Up 4-stag derby slated Nov. 12. Screening will be held today until Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Interested parties may call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812. Stags previously banded for Stag Festival derby are accepted. Those banded by Edgar Coronel for "Labanan" stagfest are also allowed (blue leg bands only).

ILIGAN SHOOTFEST: Congressman Jurdin Jesus Romualdo (fourth from right) and actor Eddie Garcia (third from left) graced the opening of the recent Iligan City Mayor Lawrence Lluch Cruz Cup international shooting tournament in Iligan City. Joining them, from left, are Frederick Sia, Simplicio Larazabal, Mayor Cruz, Sapra president Jose Maria Boza, councilor Rudy Marzo and Tommy Laya.

Ateneo Lady Eagles rout SBC-Alabang

ATENEO CRUISED TO ITS THIRD straight win by routing San Beda College-Alabang, 54-34, Sunday in the college division of the Women's Basketball League (WBL) at the San Beda-Manila campus in Mendiola.

A fiery 19-9 third-quarter run was all the Lady Eagles needed to crush the Bedans.

Treena Limgenco and Jacqueline Velasco starred for Ateneo with 24 and 18 points, respectively.

The 20-year-old Limgenco poured in eight of her output in the fourth quarter during a 12-4 blast which gave Ateneo a 54-26 lead with three minutes left in the game.

"We're playing as hard as we can in every game and we are not taking our foes lightly," said Ateneo coach Benjamin Jose Sipin III.

In the other college games, Jennifer Cagampang scored 12 points to power Miriam College past De La Salle University, 45-38, and St. Scholastica's College trounced Assumption College, 49-26.

In the high school division, De La Salle Zobel leaned on the hot hands of Maria Eileen Urieta to trip JASMS, 54-34; St. Scholastica's College beat San Beda-Manila, 71-59; and Miriam clobbered Community of Learners, 77-28.

It was New Era University over University of the Philippines Integrated School, 45-14; School of St. Anthony over Community of Learners, 45-10; and CoL over OB Montessori, 20-0, in the high school developmental level.

Assumption College trimmed De La Salle Zobel, 26-22, in the lone elementary division game.

Barcelona, Montilla stake belts Saturday

ERIC BARCELONA WILL DEFEND his Philippine super flyweight title for the first time against second-ranked Celso Danggod in one of two main events of a benefit 76-round card Saturday at the San Andres sports complex.

The 24-year-old Barcelona is looking for his third straight win after a string of three defeats.

A southpaw, Barcelona outpointed Orlan Enriquez on Aug. 20 at the Ynares Memorial gym in Binangonan to win the RP title.

Barcelona, managed by North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, has a fight record of 31 wins, 10 by knockout, seven losses and five draws.

Against Danggod, Barcelona will be fighting a veteran fighter who has fought 66 times since 1993, winning 33 times against 20 losses and 13 draws.

The other 12-round title fight pits reigning RP lightweight champion Fernando Montilla of Davao City against Dexter Delada of Cebu.

Montilla won the title by knocking out Rey Almonicar on Dec. 11, 2004 in Taguig, Rizal.

The card, put up by Braveheart Promotions, hopes to raise P500,000 for the legal funds of former two-time world champion Luisito Espinosa who is locked in a nine-year case over an unclaimed $150,000 purse.

The first 1,000 spectators will get free admission at the venue, courtesy of world champion Manny Pacquiao who pledged P100,000.

Espinosa is expected to attend the event. The first fight starts at 6 p.m.

All Sins Day (Seen at the cemetery)

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THIS IS FOR THE LIVING
The dead need no leaving
The living leave nothing to chance
Like athletes, they kiss all day like ants.
All around us are grasses and weeds breathing
The cement, oh how cold, it is seething
With muted howls creepy if heard at all
Alas, like ants, athletes kiss till they fall.
There is music to coax tombstones to open
There is drink to lift the spirit till it keels over
This is not for the dead but for the living
Omigosh, like athletes, the ants always do the kissing.

Araw Ng Mga Kasalanan
(Nakita Ko Sa Sementeryo)
Ito ay para sa mga buhay
Hindi na kailangan pang umalis ang mga patay
Kailanman hindi mahilig sa tsamba ang buhay
Tulad sa atleta, langgam ay maghapong naghahalikan.
Sa ating paligid ay mga damo't amorsekong humihinga
Ang semento, ay! napakalamig, at ito'y sumisingasing na
Kung maririnig mo lang ang mga taghoy ay kikilabutan ka
Ay, tulad sa langgam, atleta'y halikan hanggang hangga.
May tugtuging wari'y gustong buksan ang mga nitso
May inuming pampagising sa espiritu santo apo
Ito'y hindi para sa patay kundi para sa buhay
Asusmaryosep, tulad sa atleta, langgam ay halikan habambuhay.

Agew Nyaray Kasalanan
(Anengneng Kod Kamposanto)
Aya et para labat et mabilay
Agala nakaukulan ya umpikal iray inatey la
Anggad kapigan, kabusol na sibibilay so tsamba
Singa atleta, sanagew iran manaanguban a la gilata.
Akapaliber ed sikatayo et dika tan amorsekon unaanges
Su semento, agi! ambetebetel, tan alabes ya alabes
No naringel yo labat su panagsingar da ay! makapaakis
Agi! singa gilata, suy anguban daray atleta agamet unimpis.
Walay tugtog ya labay ton lukasan iray nitso
Walay inumen ya labay ton liingen so espirito tayo
Aya et parad mabilay aliwan parad inatey
Ay lasi, singa atleta, angubay gilata lay makauley.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

Rufa denies romantic link to politician

"KAHIT wala si Rudy, behave *ako*."

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I TEXTED **Rufa Mae Quinto** and teased her about news linking her to Mayor **JV Ejercito**. She called me immediately and said, "*Kakahiya naman kay JV.* There's nothing between us, really. Even if **Rudy (Hatfield)** is away, behave *pa rin ako*. I guess people just misinterpreted what JV wrote on the wall in "Bubble Gang Toppings." His dedication said he loved me and would marry me anytime. *Lambing lang niya 'yon. Sana 'di lagyan ng kulay*."

Rufa Mae said her life was colorful as it was, sans the intrigues. I wonder when Peachy (her pet name because she loves *pichi-pichi*) would be willing to sell the rights to her "boy-ography."

Riki Kwek and **Cris Mathay** are enjoying life as new parents with **Crissie**, their firstborn. Riki delivered ahead of schedule. Now, the former party girl spends more time in the pantry as a hands-on mom and wife. "I don't mind being stuck at home forever with my baby and Cris. Breast-feeding Crissie is heaven. I hope she doesn't grow up too fast!" These two are such a fun couple, it won't be long for sure before their baby starts wondering, "Are they my parents or my playmates?"

QTV-11

ON Nov. 11, QTV Channel 11 (GMA 7's sister station) joins the league of free-TV channels in the country as it goes full blast in airing its colorful lineup of new shows. The programs are specifically designed to coincide with women's daily routines and program contents highlight what is most important to women.

QTV boasts of innovative programs, such as "Pusong Wagi," which showcases real stories of kindness by people who are truly down and yet are willing to go out of their way to help others; "O Mare Ko," a funny take on ordinary Pinay lives; "Liga ng Kababaihan," a one-of-a-kind magazine show addressing the many facets of womanhood; "Sana'y Muling Makapiling," a public service program hosted by multi-awarded broadcast icon **Jessica Soho** that reunites families by searching for missing members; "Moms," a talk show that exclusively addresses mothers and mothers-to-be; and "Women's Desk," a brave new program solely devoted to the protection of women's and children's rights.

My ever-dependable "Kapuso" friend, **Butch Raquel**, puts it so aptly, "Q stands for quality and not quickie." It remains to be seen which among the Q shows advertisers will queue up for.

Ahh, Pia!

IT'S ALWAYS a delight to chat with Pia Guanio. We've been friends since her ABS-CBN days. Now that she's one of GMA 7's most visible stars, I'm glad that she has remained as warm as when we first met. She's all agog about her show on Q-11, which will deal with "lists."

Pia said: "Every week we will feature the top 10 of anything. For instance, the top 10 fashion statements or the top 10 worst things said etc. We will do surveys and extensive research. We will explain why we chose a particular person or story. It's so interesting. The possibilities are endless!"

As it is, the girl has her hands full with her hosting chores in "Eat Bulaga," "S-Files" and "24 Oras." Does she still have time to rest? She laughed, "I can rest when I'm old and in my rocking chair already!" Doesn't her longtime boyfriend, Mike (brother of **Cristine Jacobs**), ever ask her to stop working too hard and settle down already? She replied, smiling, "I make sure I'm worth the wait."

Oh yeah! If there were a list of 10 most desirable women, Pia could top it. Mike knows that only too well.

Next Page star

I HAD a tough time screening the gorgeous contestants for Page Jeans Company's search for its next batch of image models. Out of the thousands of applicants from all over the country, 25 were chosen from the second screening and 16 from the first batch. They will compete in the grand finals set in December at Venue 108 Bar and Resto Timog. Kudos to Mr. and Mrs Ricardo Chang and the Page Jeans' family!

Reader's corner

Dear Dolly,

I understand the frustration and pain that **Rudy Fernandez** and his family went through when they were deported from Japan. However, this is something that he should've have taken up with the Japanese immigration officials and Philippine institutions/organizations that protect artists like him. No matter what **Roby Tarroza** did, that doesn't give Mr. Fernandez the right to assault and threaten him. Rudy should have coursed the matter through the proper channels. He's a respected actor and I'm sure his closest friends will come to his rescue. Let's face it, he didn't set a good example to his peers and his children, especially not to his son, **Mark Anthony**.

Eric Manangon
(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)

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2

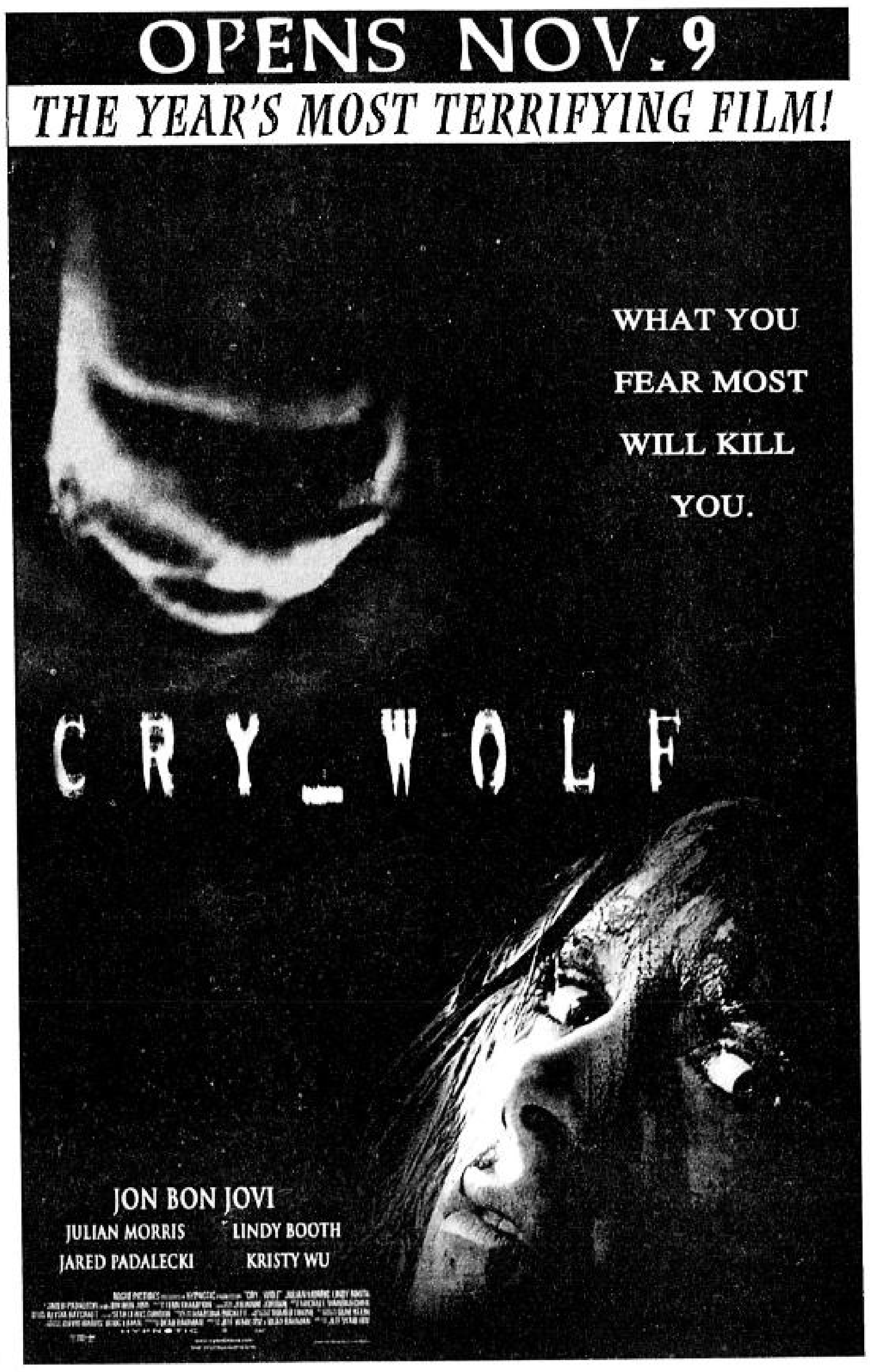
Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) A MAN A PART
2 PARAISONG GUBAT
3 MASAHISTA
4 (DTS) MAD HOUSE

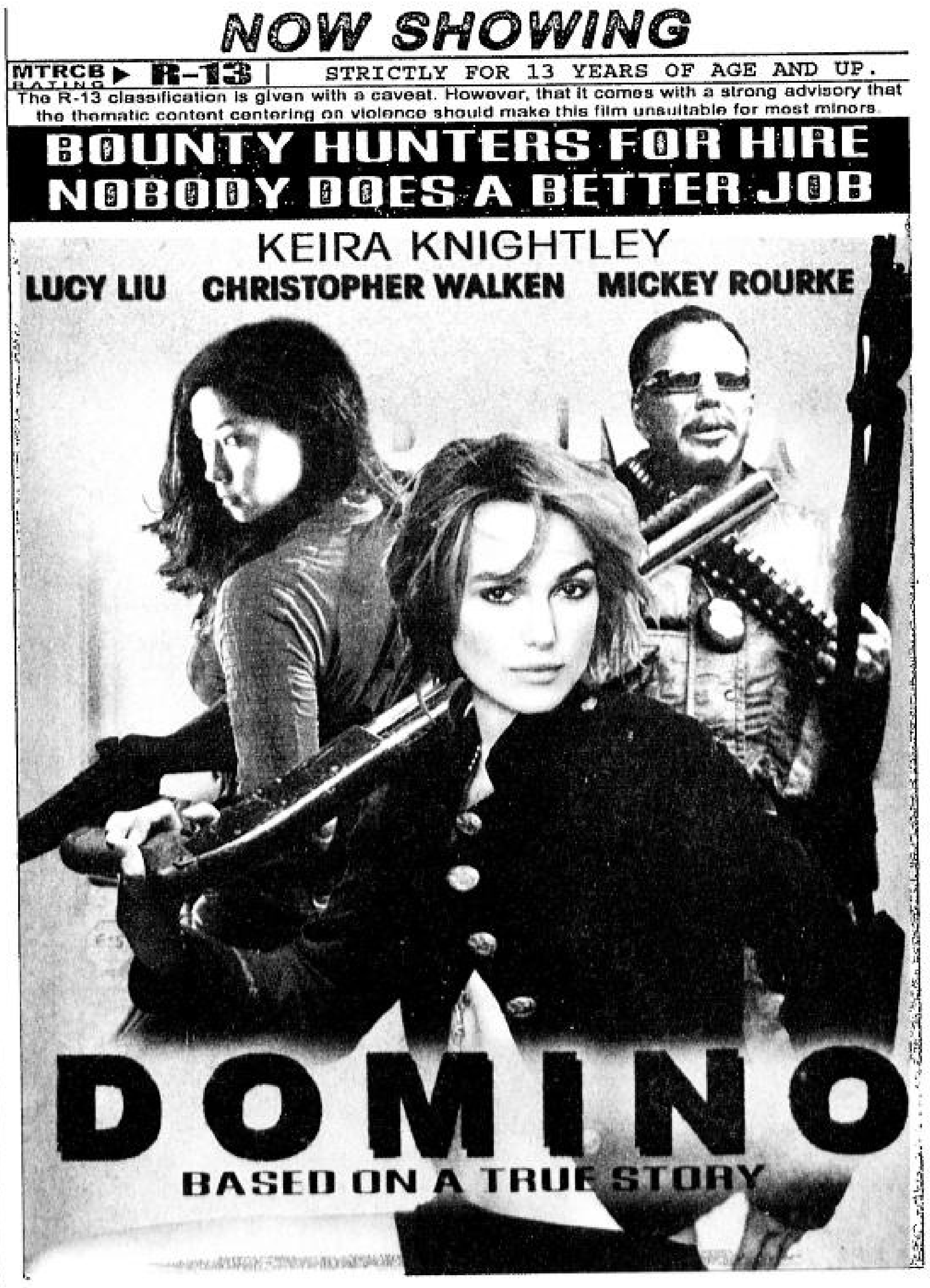
Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 LINGO LANG ANG PAHINGA
3 (DTS) ISPIRITISTA
4 PARAISONG GUBAT
5 SOUND OF THUNDER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DUBAI
4 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 PARAISONG GUBAT

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE





NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
The R-13 classification is given with a caveat. However, that it comes with a strong advisory that the thematic content centering on violence should make this film unsuitable for most minors.
BOUNTY HUNTERS FOR HIRE
NOBODY DOES A BETTER JOB
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
LUCY LIU
CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
MICKEY ROURKE
DOMINO
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Alma …

From page A22

working either."

"I paid 44,100 yen—about P22,000—for the three rooms," Alma said.

At 8 a.m. Friday, they were fetched by airport security, packed in a van and escorted to a PAL flight back to Manila.

She was seeking redress, Alma stressed, "for my two kids."

She said her blood pressure had shot up and she suffered headaches. "If we adults could be so traumatized, imagine what it was like for the children."

On the advise of three lawyers—Ellen Veza, Chot Nadal and Doris Sacramento—she is gathering additional evidence and contemplating a suit against Tarroza.

Why new widow Gloria Romero was wearing red

"I was embarrassed to be buying such an outfit. I had to explain to the saleslady."

By Nini Valera

THREE DAYS AFTER SHE BURIED HER husband Juancho Gutierrez last month, Gloria Romero had a pictorial for her Metro Manila Film Festival movie, "Shake, Rattle and Roll."

She wore a red pantsuit, smiling serenely as the photographer clicked away.

During a break in the shoot, Gloria related, "The person who informed me about this pictorial was embarrassed to say it had been set so soon after my husband's funeral."

But like a pro, as usual, she arrived at the studio right on schedule, though a bit ruffled about the specified color of her outfit.

"I was uneasy about buying a red suit," she admitted. "I had to explain to the saleslady that it was for a pictorial."

Wearing that red suit, Gloria talked to INQUIRER Entertainment recently.

"When I was starting out, I felt so *baduy*," she said. "I admire the young stars today. They go to tapings after school. They have so much talent."

At age 71, Gloria is still one of the busiest veteran actresses in the industry.

Granny roles

"Who would think I'd get such great roles at my age?" she marveled. "I did 'Tanging Yaman' and 'Magnifico' just a few years back."

She continued, laughing, "It's useless for me to dream of a lead role now. They wouldn't pair me off, anyway, with Piolo Pascual or Jericho Rosales. It's mostly *lola* (grandmother) roles for me. I don't mind. I'm a *lola* (to Christopher, 13, son of her daughter Maritess)."

Acting remains to be an immensely enjoyable experience for Gloria.

"I love my work," she said. "There was a time when I wasn't making movies, and I spent the time visiting relatives in the United States... until Mother Lily (Monteverde) thought of bringing back senior stars to appear onscreen with the young stars."

That was in the 1980s. A string of television sitcoms and soaps have since kept Gloria busy.

"I'll stop only when I can no longer memorize my lines," she mused.

Gloria is also the only *lola* in these parts featured on billboards for a beauty salon chain.

"Ricky Reyes who gave me that at my age," she said with amusement.

Between friends

The endorsement, she clarified, was a matter between two friends. "We never talked about the money," Gloria said. "[Sure] he brings me stuff whenever he comes home from abroad—like this bracelet I'm wearing... which he sent upon learning I was playing a rich old woman in this movie."

That rich old woman in the "Shake" episode directed by Uro dela Cruz was once an ingénue in movies produced by Sampaguita Pictures.

"Those were the days," said Gloria. "How I enjoyed every minute of it!"

Youth, music in acclaimed German films

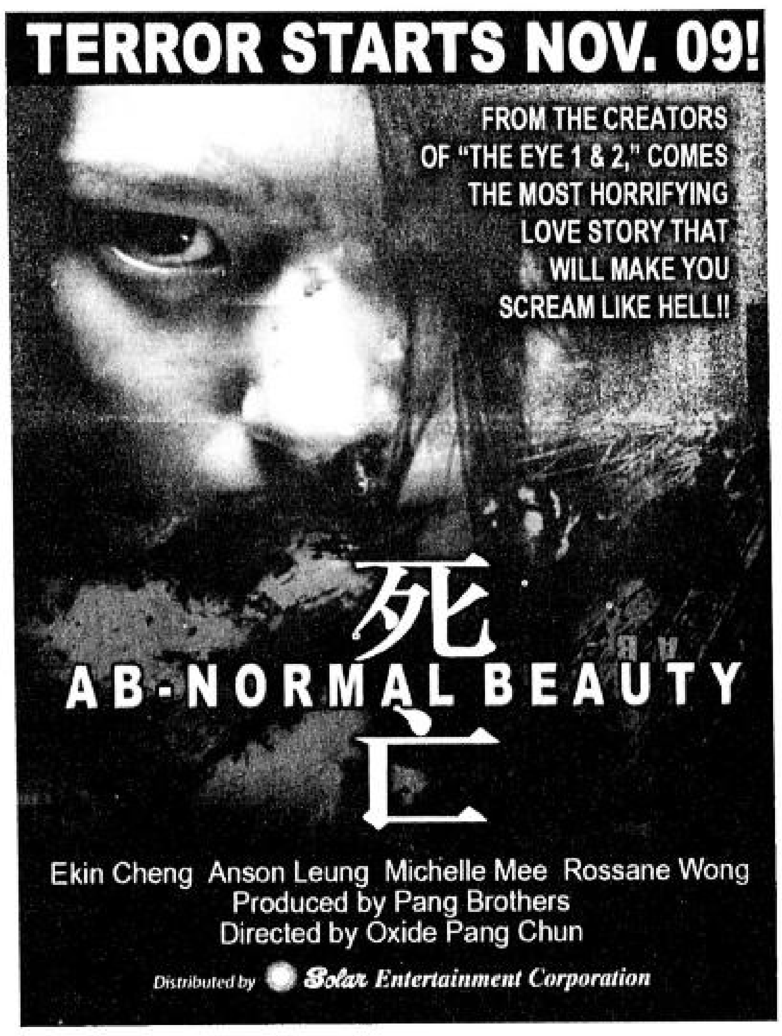
THE GOETHE-INSTITUT MANILA, PRESENTS three German feature films with a common theme—music and the youth—tomorrow until Nov. 6 at The Podium Cinema 2 and Nov. 11-13 at SM Baguio.

"Status Yo!" is a fast-pace movie about the Berlin hip-hop scene. Part-documentary (all the "actors" play themselves, and many of the events are based on real stories), the movie follows a number of people over the course of a day in Berlin. Yaneeq is trying to organize the biggest party in the capital in just 24 hours. Tarek dreams of turning Berlin into one enormous graffiti sculpture. "Session," a rapper, is dodging debt collectors. The breakdancers called 5Amoks make an appearance.

"The Blind Flyers: follows the adventures of best friends Maria and Inga as they audition for a school band in the hope of appearing on a television show. The two are typical music-loving teenagers, except for one thing: they are blind. Refreshingly unsentimental, "Blind Flyers" promotes neither stereotyping nor pity; it merely intends to show that the handicapped are truly just like "normal" people. It won the 2004 German Film Award for Best Children's Film and a Euro Kids Film Award in the same year.

What happens when 250 mostly underprivileged children—strangers to classical music—are asked to dance to Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" as performed by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra? "Rhythm Is It" chronicles this project led by Sir Simon Rattle, BPO chief conductor, and British choreographer Royston Maldoom. Winner of a 2005 German Critics Award, the 2005 Bavarian Film Award for Best Documentary and the 2005 Gibson Impact of Music Award at the Nashville International Film Festival.

For details, call 722-4671 to 73.


TERROR STARTS NOV. 09!
FROM THE CREATORS OF "THE EYE 1 & 2," COMES THE MOST HORRIFYING LOVE STORY THAT WILL MAKE YOU SCREAM LIKE HELL!!
死亡
AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
Ekin Cheng Anson Leung Michelle Mee Rossane Wong
Produced by Pang Brothers
Directed by Oxide Pang Chun
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

Alma Moreno recounts Narita ordeal

From page A26

ald Madrid, and five other companions—including co-stars on the ABS-CBN soap opera, "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit," drag performer Ian Valdez (or William Pepino in real life) and comedian Hyubs (or Ariel Azarcon in real life).

"Hyubs brought along his friend, Justin de Leon of Viva Hot Men," Alma pointed out. "*Lakad barkada* (a junket among friends)."

According to Rudy's manager Lolit Solis, it was Justin's last-minute inclusion in the entourage that got the Filipinos in trouble. "Robby Tarroza, a Viva consultant, faxed a letter to Shuhei Ogawa, a press attaché in the Japanese Embassy, to prevent Justin from performing in a show in Tokyo. The letter was the reason that Rudy got mad at him," Lolit said. Rudy and Robby later figured in an altercation at the Viva office.

Robby's involvement was confirmed by Viva legal counsel Gina Lopez: "It was Mr. Tarroza who wrote, signed and sent the letter... on his own," Lopez said.

INQUIRER Entertainment obtained a copy of the letter, in which Robby alleged that Justin (real name Michael de Leon) was to perform at Musikhall Club in Tokyo, with Rudy, Alma and Hyubs.

What show?

"There was no show," Alma explained to INQUIRER Entertainment. "We went there to attend a friend's wedding anniversary and to take my children to Tokyo Disneyland."

Instead of tourists on a holiday, Alma complained, they were treated like criminals by Japanese immigration officials.

She narrated: "We didn't even make it to the immigration windows. We were pulled out from the line by an officer."

According to a protest letter drafted by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and sent to Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Alberto Romulo, the Filipinos were then "herded into a room where they were made to wait for five hours."

"We were standing all the time," Alma recalled. "Finally, I was taken to a smaller room where I was asked all sorts of questions." She and Rudy were the only ones interrogated.

Money issue

"They kept asking if we had money," Alma said. "Of course, we had money! I asked if we could buy food for the kids, but they said no. My children were crying, hungry and scared."

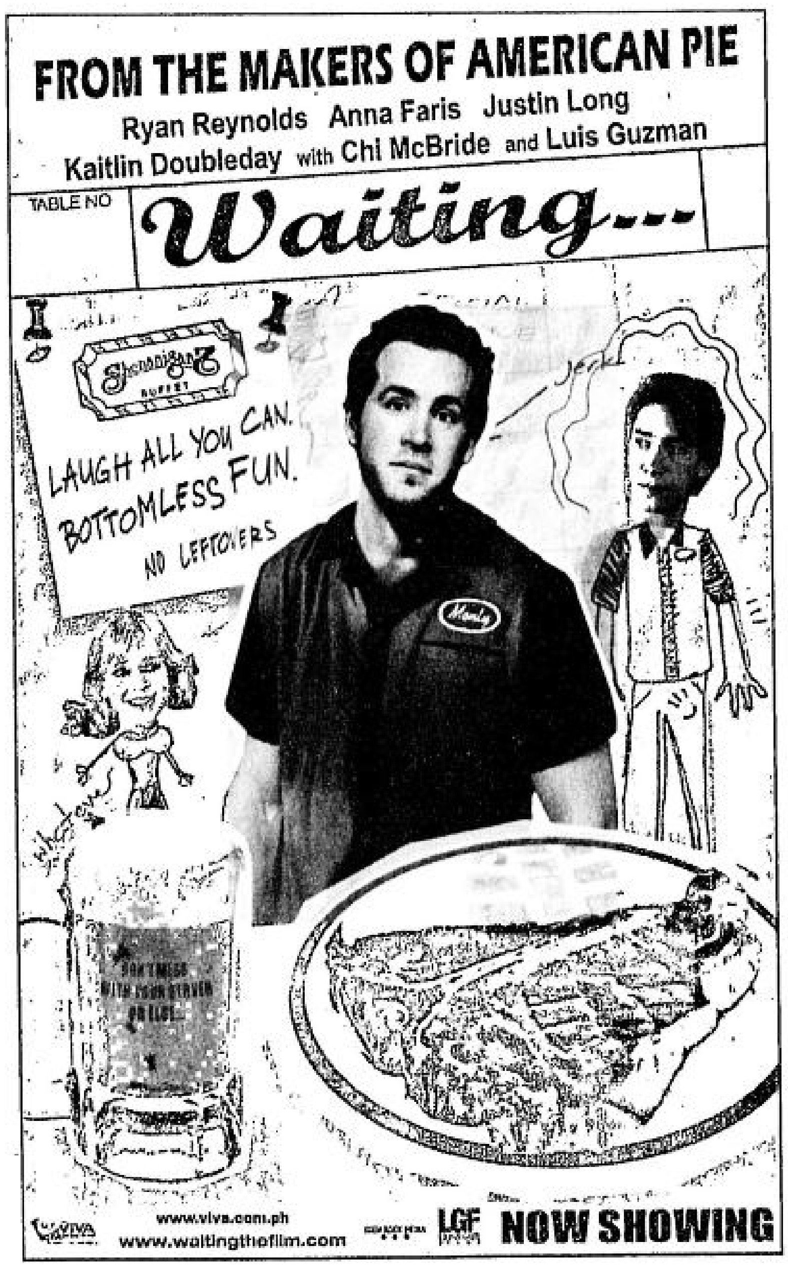
They were repeatedly asked to sign a waiver. "I refused because it said we were 'ineligible' to land and enter Japan ... because we lacked money!" the actress said.

The group was next brought to the Narita Airport Rest House. Estrada's letter described the place as "an elaborate detention center."

Alma showed INQUIRER Entertainment pictures, taken by Gerald, of their rooms. "It was 4 a.m. when we reached the rest house. There were graffiti on the walls and blood stains on the carpet and mattress. The hallways were dimly lit and the doorknobs to our rooms were wired to prevent us from leaving. It was horrible," Alma said. "When at last we were allowed to buy instant noodles, my children were already asleep."

Ian added, "The air-conditioning wasn't

ALMA/A21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Ryan Reynolds Anna Faris Justin Long
Kaitlin Doubleday with Chi McBride and Luis Guzman
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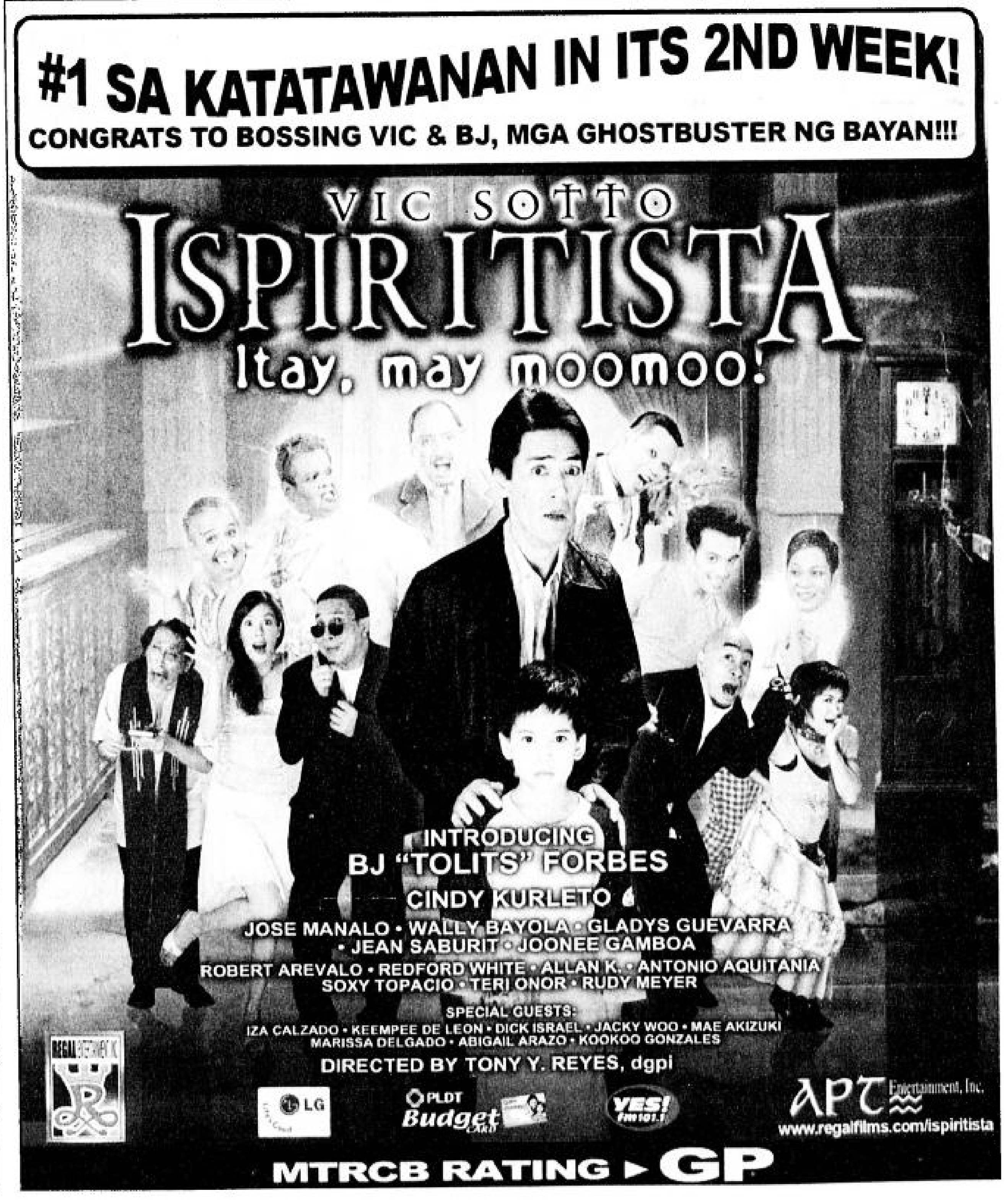
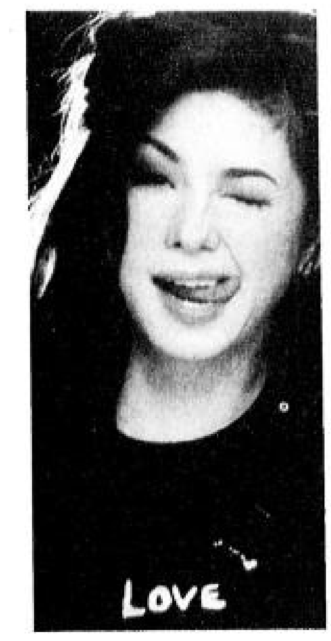

#1 SA KATATAWANAN IN ITS 2ND WEEK!
CONGRATS TO BOSSING VIC & BJ, MGA GHOSTBUSTER NG BAYAN!!!
VIC SOTTO
ISPIRITISTA
Itay, may moomoo!
INTRODUCING
BJ "TOLITS" FORBES
CINDY KURLETO
JOSE MANALO • WALLY BAYOLA • GLADYS GUEVARRA • JEAN SABURIT • JOONEE GAMBOA
ROBERT AREVALO • REDFORD WHITE • ALLAN K. • ANTONIO AQUITANIA
SOXY TOPACIO • TERI ONOR • RUDY MEYER
SPECIAL GUESTS:
IZA CALZADO • KEEMPEE DE LEON • DICK ISRAEL • JACKY WOO • MAE AKIZUKI
MARISSA DELGADO • ABIGAIL ARAZO • KOOKOO GONZALES
DIRECTED BY TONY Y. REYES, dgpi
www.regalfilms.com/ispiritista
MTRCB RATING ▸ GP



SHOW TIME

Tomorrow

Regine Velasquez in "Reflections" at the Aliw Theater. Repeats Nov. 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19; Dec. 9 & 10.

Jon Santos and **John Lapus** in "Ang Ganda" at Zircon, T. Morato, Q.C. Repeats Nov. 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26.

MTRCB RATING R-13
NOW SHOWING
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MARK WAHLBERG
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LOOK WHO'S WATCHING AT SM CINEMA VALENZUELA?

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movietime
4 Cinema Tickets only P300 from Oct. 28 to Nov. 3
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movietime
Get a regular popcorn and 12 oz. juice with your purchase of a premier movie ticket
for only P140
November 4 - 30

movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

RED CARPET PREMIERE

Megamall
THE MYTH
Nov. 18 • Cinema 1

Megamall
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
Nov. 21 • Cinema 1

Megamall
AN UNFINISHED LIFE
Nov. 29 • Cinema 2

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976		CEBU (032) 231-3876	
1	FLIGHT PLAN	1	FLIGHT PLAN
2	LEGEND OF ZORRO	2	LEGEND OF ZORRO
MEGAMALL		3	TRANSPORTER 2
1	DOOM		

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 DOOM
2 THE GHOST INSIDE
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 ISPIRISTISTA
5 DOMINO
6 LORD OF WAR
7 WAITING
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
11 DEUCE BIGALOW
12 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DOMINO
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 THE GHOST INSIDE
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 DOOM
8 MY SASSY GIRL
9 WAITING
10 DUBAI

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 WAITING
4 DOMINO

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DOOM
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 DOMINO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 THE GHOST INSIDE
9 MY SASSY GIRL
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 DUBAI

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 DOMINO
5 WAITING
6 THE GHOST INSIDE
7 DOOM
8 DUBAI
9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 MY SASSY GIRL

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 WAITING
2 DOMINO
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 FOUR BROTHERS
2 WAITING
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 THE GHOST INSIDE
6 DOOM
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 DOMINO

SM CITY MANILA
1 DOOM
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 DOMINO
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 DEUCE BIGALOW
11 WAITING
12 THE GHOST INSIDE

SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 DOMINO
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 WAITING
4 DOOM
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 ISPIRITISTA

Harry Potter

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

NO NEED FOR THE LONG WAIT
Tickets for HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE regular showing are now available at your nearest SM Cinema branch nationwide until November 15
Tickets also available at The Podium Cinema

www.gobletoffire-asia.com

IN THEATERS ON NOVEMBER 16

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOOM

SM CITY BACOOR
1 WAITING
2 DUBAI
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 DOMINO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 MY SASSY GIRL
8 DOOM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

SM CITY LUCENA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 LORD OF WAR
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LORD OF WAR
4 ISPIRITISTA

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 WAITING
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 RESERVED
3 WALLACE AND GROMIT
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
7 RESERVED
8 BLADE OF ROSE

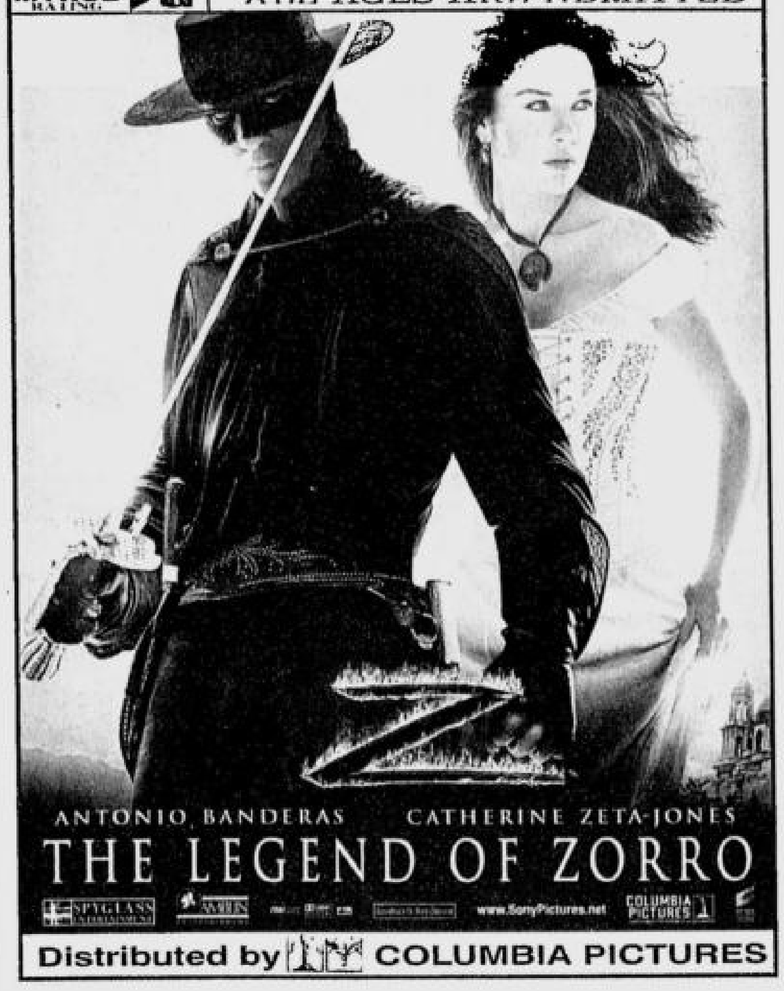
SM CITY DAVAO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 ONE MISSED CALL 2
5 WALLACE AND GROMIT
6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 LORD OF WAR

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Bring the entire family!
SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



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SHANG CINEPLEX

① FOUR BROTHERS MTRCB R-13
③ WAITING MTRCB R-13
② THE LEGEND OF ZORRO MTRCB GP
④ DOMINO MTRCB R-13

PREMIERE THEATRE THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
MTRCB GP

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

"HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE"
OPENS IN SHANG CINEPLEX ON NOV. 16.
GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE
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Shangri-La Plaza

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Get your tickets to "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" in advance starting November 1, 2005
Film opens November 16.

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	FOUR BROTHERS	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00	R-13
2	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO	11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00	GP
3	DOMINO	11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40	R-13
4	WAITING	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	R-13

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

DOMINO R13 2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 12:50,3:30,6:10,8:50	WAITING R13 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00,10:00
FOUR BROTHERS R13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30	SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL - GP 1:25,3.35 DOOM R13 5:40,7:50	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO GP 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50

Araneta Center Leisure Guide.

CINEMA SCHEDULES

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DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

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	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 1:20 / 4:05 / 6:50 / 9:35	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:45 / 3:30 / 6:15 / 9:00
THE FOUR BROTHERS 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20	DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
WAITING 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	DOOM 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
THE GHOST INSIDE 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10	ISPIRITISTA 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
DOMINO 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20	THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

① ISPIRITISTA 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	④ THE GHOST INSIDE 11:25 / 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05
② THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 R2 / 2:25 / 5:10 / 7:55	⑤ DOMINO 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
③ THE FOUR BROTHERS 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Nov. 6 Sunday	GINEBRA vs AIR 21 4:10 pm ALASKA vs TALK N TEXT 6:40 pm	Nov. 9 Wed	SAN MIGUEL vs STA LUCIA 4:40 pm COCA COLA vs PUREFOODS 7:25 pm

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Symonynous, title of the dish, and other boob tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: WILL THIS NEW MOVIE APPEAL TO the whole family, do you think?

Guest: No, it's drama, so I think it will appeal only to the olders.

(Ay, the olders!)

* * *

Host: Who's winning in the political battle that's being fought these days—Gloria or the opposition?

Guest: It depends on the numbers, *kung mas malakas ang* outpour *ng tao* for or against...!

(Outpour *ng tao*?—What's that?)

* * *

Host: And now, our guest chef will teach us a really unusual dish!

Guest: Yes, it's really different!

Host: But before you demonstrate, first tell us, what's the title of this dish?

(*Ay*, the title of this dish *daw, o*!)

* * *

Host: Our poll question today is: What's better, living in or getting married? What do you think?

Guest: I think it's nicer to get married first before you live in!

(*Baliktad yata*!)

* * *

Host: You're now so successful and rich abroad! Did you ever imagine you would become like this?

Guest: Honestly, no. I never ever dream I were marry a foreigner.

(You sound pretty "foreign" to us, too!)

* * *

Host: How do we get out of the deep hole we've dug as a nation? What's your advice?

Guests: We have to get rid of our *urong-sulong* mentality. *Mahirap yung* stop-stop, *kailangan* continue!

(Quote, unquote!)

* * *

Host: What do you think will happen to us in the near future?

Guest: If we don't do anything to change, we will have to *matuto ng mas malalim na lechon*!

(A delicious lesson to learn!)

* * *

Host: How do you feel after your great victory in the competition?

Guest: I'm so exciting!

(We wish we could agree with you, but...)

* * *

Host: What do you have to say to the contestants of the international beauty contest that will be held here tomorrow?

Guest: To all of them, my message is: You're really all winners already, because you already won your own countries!

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: Why is our country's problem with corruption so big?

Guest: It's the economic! Corruption, everybody's doing it here because life is so hard.—No, I'm saying everybody is doing it...

(Make up your mind!)

* * *

Host: Why are you such a fan of this director's works?

Guest: Because, let's face it, his name is symonynous with quality!

(Symonynous?—Oh, synonymous!)

'Ali'

BROADCASTER, actress and singer Ali Sotto has added a new talk show to her list of accomplishments. "Ali" premiered on ABC 5 at 11 p.m. on Oct. 25, a Tuesday, with a discussion on beauty with the insightful likes of Gloria Diaz and Cory Quirino.

'Bloodfist 2050'

GOOD news from Premiere Entertainment: It will be releasing "Bloodfist 2050," the seventh movie in the successful all-karate franchise, on Nov 30.

The film stars Matthew Mullins, who was discovered in last year's Pepsi commercial as a karate student in China. He is the five-time World Kickboxing Champion (WKA). Our own Monsour del Rosario, a taekwondo champion and medalist in his own right, is cast as his main antagonist.

Premiere also has a pre-Christmas release, the animated feature "Aladdin and the Adventure of All Times," which will hit local screens on Dec. 18.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2• THX
2 DOMINO
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 WAITING
5 GHOST INSIDE
6 DOOM
7 MY SASSY GIRL
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 DEUCE BIGALOW 2

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 DOMINO
2 GHOST INSIDE
3 DOOM
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 WAITING

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
3 GHOST INSIDE
4 DOOM
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 DOMINO
7 MY SASSY GIRL
8 ISPIRITISTA

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

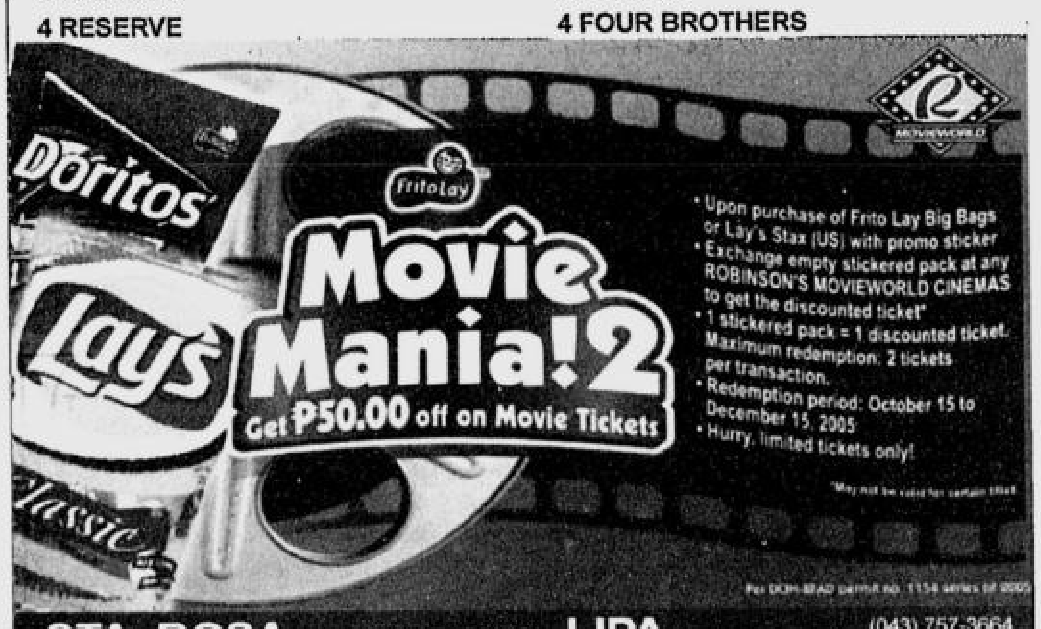
1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 GHOST INSIDE
3 DOMINO
4 DOOM

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 ISPIRITISTA
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 WAITING
3 DOMINO
4 FOUR BROTHERS



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- 1 stickered pack = 1 discounted ticket. Maximum redemption: 2 tickets per transaction.
- Redemption period: October 15 to December 15, 2005
- Hurry, limited tickets only!

*May not be valid for certain titles

Per DOH-BFAD permit no. 1154 series of 2005

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 UNDISCOVERED
4 DOOM

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 LORD OF WAR
4 UNDISCOVERED

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
4 INTO THE BLUE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 CORPSE BRIDE
4 DOOM

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 WAITING
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 CORPSE BRIDE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 DOOM
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
6 WILD SIDE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 SHANGHAI LILY
6 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

ILOILO (033) 338-8070

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 LORD OF WAR
3 THE DESCENT
4 WALLACE AND GROMIT

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GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Ansons Appliances Exhibit November 2 to 16, 2005	AV Surfer October 31 to November 15 Christmas Serenade w/ Afinity Nov. 2 , 9, 16, 23 & 30	DSWD's Regional Children's Contest November 8

AYALA
GREENBELT

Tree Lighting Ceremony
November 10, 2005 - Greenbelt 3 Lobby
Anton Ramos & The Phil. Philharmonic Orchestra Show
November 12 to 13, 2005 - Greenbelt 3 Park

GREENBELT 1 Onstage

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
MAN OF LA MANCHA - The Musical
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
November 11 to December 18, 2005
For inquiries, please call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

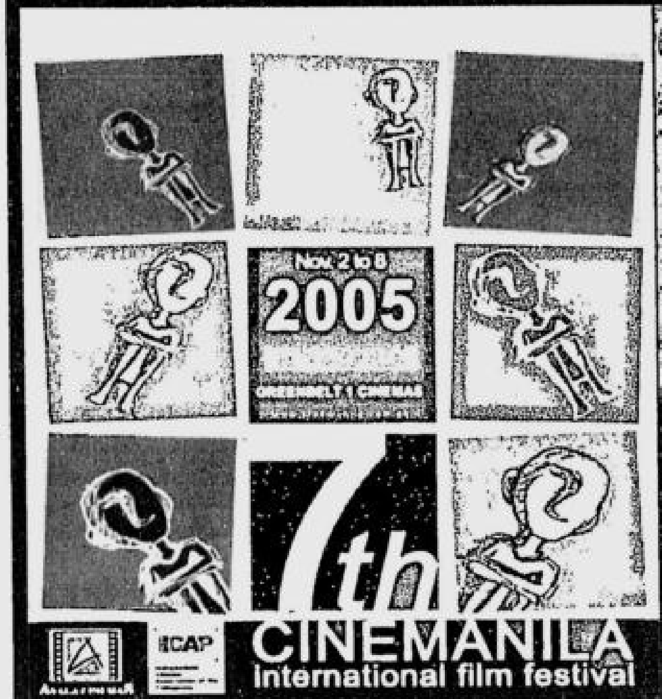
AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	FOUR BROTHERS	LEGEND OF ZORRO	DOMINO	ISPIRITISTA			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	WAITING	DOMINO	THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2.00, 4 50, 7 40 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	THE 40 YR. OLD VIRGIN	FOUR BROTHERS	ISPIRITISTA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45	CINEMANILA For inquiries, call 750-4180 to 81					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX FOUR BROTHERS 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX LEGEND OF ZORRO 2 45, 5 30, 8 15, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS	THE 40 YR. OLD VIRGIN 2. 10, 4.30, 6.50, 9 10. 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	WAITING 1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	DOMINO 1 00, 3 35, 6 10 8 45, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX LEGEND OF ZORRO	FOUR BROTHERS	DOMINO	ISPIRITISTA	WAITING		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	LEGEND OF ZORRO	CORPSE BRIDE	WALLACE & GROMIT	WAITING			



CINEMANILA
International film festival

For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 82

The 6th Israeli Film Festival
November 12, 2005
Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1 Artfilm

Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
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① THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
② MY SASSY GIRL
③ DEUCE BIGALOW: The European Gigolo
④ DOOM
⑤ ISPIRITISTA

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CINEMAS
ADMIT ONE
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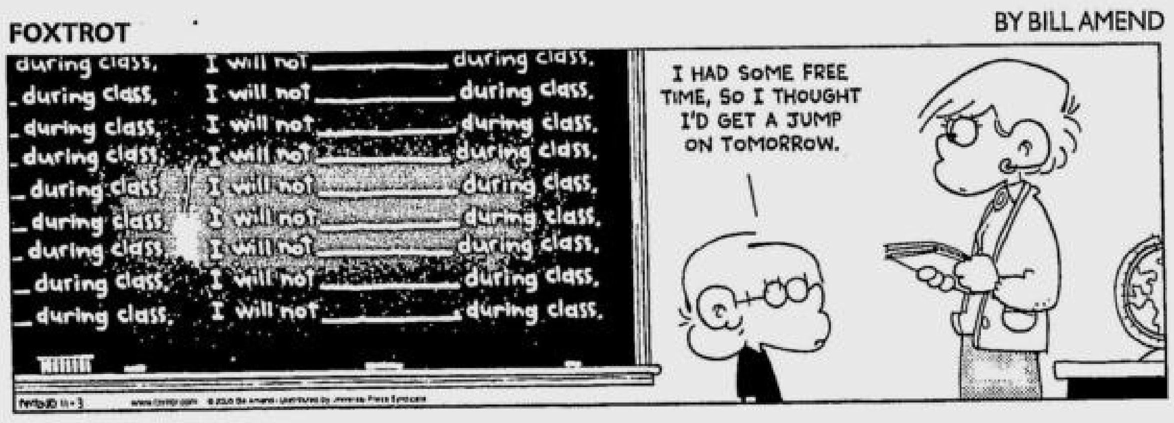
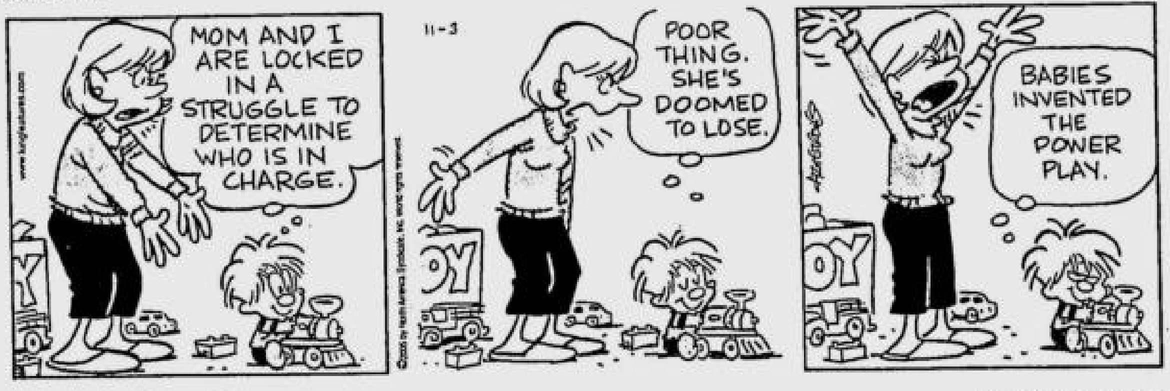
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


during class, I will not ______ during class.
_during class, I will not ______ during class.
_during class, I will not ______ during class.
_during class, I will not ______ during class.
_during class, I will not ______ during class.
_during class, I will not ______ during class.
_during class, I will not ______ during class.
_during class, I will not ______ during class.
_during class, I will not ______ during class.
I HAD SOME FREE TIME, SO I THOUGHT I'D GET A JUMP ON TOMORROW.

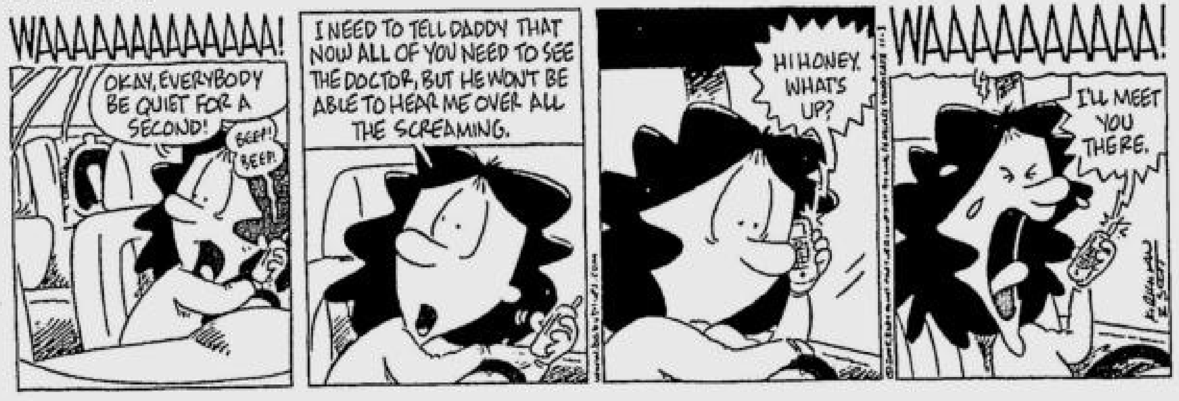
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MOM AND I ARE LOCKED IN A STRUGGLE TO DETERMINE WHO IS IN CHARGE.
11-3
POOR THING. SHE'S DOOMED TO LOSE.
BABIES INVENTED THE POWER PLAY.

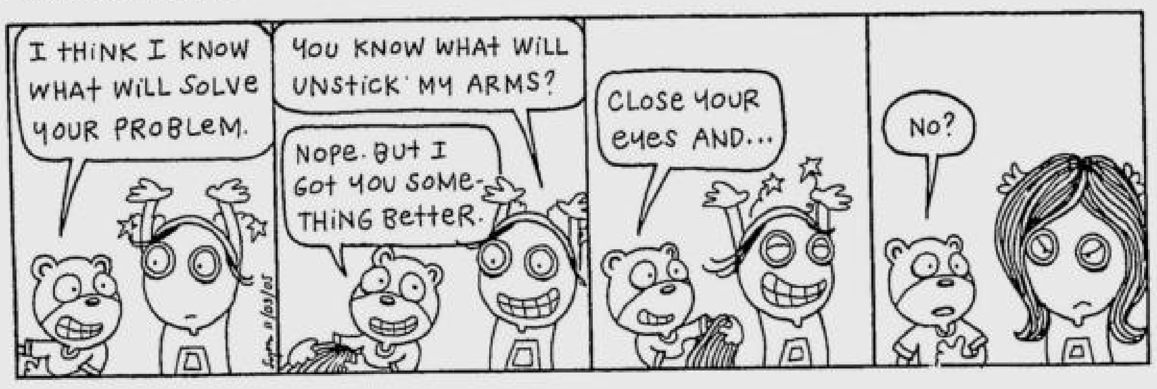
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WAAAAAAAAAAAAA!
OKAY, EVERYBODY BE QUIET FOR A SECOND!
BEEP! BEEP!
I NEED TO TELL DADDY THAT NOW ALL OF YOU NEED TO SEE THE DOCTOR, BUT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HEAR ME OVER ALL THE SCREAMING.
HI HONEY. WHAT'S UP?
WAAAAAAAAAAA!
I'LL MEET YOU THERE.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I tHINK I KNOW WHAt WILL SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM.
YOU KNOW WHAt WILL UNStick MY ARMS?
Nope. But I Got YOU SOME-THING Better.
Close YOUR eyes AND...
No?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have strong creative talents that need to be expressed. You are psychic and have excellent powers of visualization. In your early adult years, you seek adventure through education and travel. However, by 50, you become practical, realistic and organized! You have to make an important choice this year. Choose wisely. **Birthdate of:** Charles Bronson, actor; Larry Holmes, boxer; Roseanne Barr, comedian/actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Try to do anything different today. Break with your routine. Shake it up a little. Today you want to learn something new, and you want adventure!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're the financial wizard of the zodiac. (Many people who work in banks have Taurus in their charts.) Today is a good day to get on top of your finances. Check out money details.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's Moon opposes your sign. This means you're focused on partners, close friends and members of the general public because your attention is directed away from yourself. (You might learn something.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Act on your impulse to get better organized today. Sort out messy areas. Throw away or recycle whatever you no longer need.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a playful, flirtatious day! Enjoy entertaining diversions if you can. Relations with children will be upbeat and positive. Be a kid again yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Home, family, real estate and domestic matters are your primary focus today. A discussion with a parent might be significant. Childhood memories could surface now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's a busy day! Don't stay at home. Get out and run errands, do tasks, take short trips and go shopping. It's a good day for negotiations, and buying and selling.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Make friends with your bank account today. Find out how much money you don't have. However, guard against impulse spending.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel restless and independent today. You don't want anyone telling you what to do. Since the Moon is in your sign, it's a pretty lucky day for you. Relax.

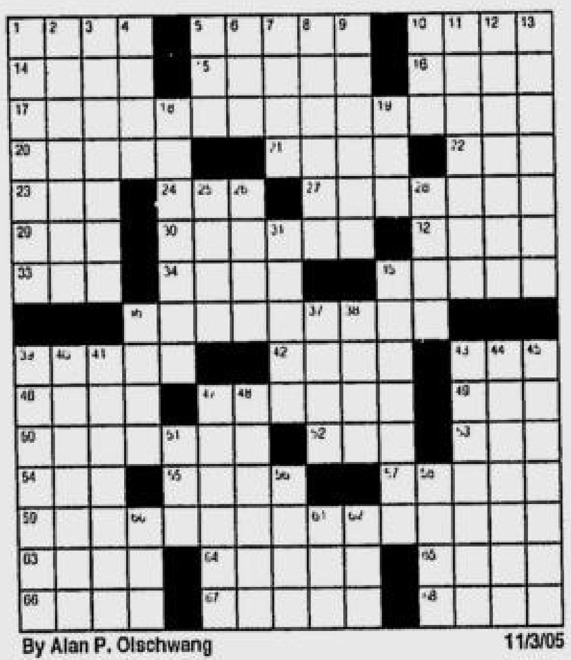
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Try and work by yourself today if you can. You need some solitude. Your ability to do research is excellent now. You might also deal with the government or large institutions today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day to talk to friends, groups, conferences, clubs and organizations. You're in the mood to network. A female friend in particular might be helpful to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You'll do something today that briefly calls attention to you. People will notice you. Knowing this, be aware of how you look and speak.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Estrada of "CHiPs"
5 Name the same suit
10 Aussie gem
14 Actress Turner
15 Fight site
16 Cash penalty
17 Start of Evan Esar quote
20 Portents
21 Singer Vince
22 "Kidnapped" author's initials
23 Finished first
24 Light brown
27 Dieter's unit
29 USNA grad
30 Votes in
32 Fibula or tibia
33 ETO leader
34 Game of chance
35 Pigeon shelters
36 Part 2 of quote
39 City on the Ruhr
42 Stern section
43 Poetic before
46 Caustic substances
47 "On the Waterfront" star
49 Declare
50 Chalkboard blur
52 Juan's leader?
53 Cravat
54 Cotton separator
55 Wishes undone
57 False gods
59 End of quote
63 "The African Queen" screenwriter
64 "Love Story" author
65 Goodbye to Gianni
66 Irish luck
67 Create a gorge
68 Miniature race car



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

11/3/05

DOWN
1 Jostled
2 "Everybody Loves __"
3 Deeply felt
4 Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"
5 Light beam
6 Notable time
7 Composer Alban
8 Charge with a crime
9 City on the Trinity River
10 Switch position
11 French comic character
12 Benzene derivative
13 Renters
18 Singer Gloria
19 Unwell
25 Banned spray
26 Geeky one
28 Orchestra instrument
31 Hooded reptile
35 Habitual
36 Dame Myra
37 Cravings
38 Spoken fanfare
39 Funereal
40 Inoculation instrument
41 Rap sessions?
43 Latvia's neighbor
44 Train unit
45 Range of vision
47 Dust-up memento
48 Sailor's jacket
51 Internet address letters
56 Desert lily
58 One of Nixon's nicknames
60 Men
61 Forlorn
62 Pub purchase

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	P	S	■	C	A	S	T	■	G	A	U	Z	E
M	E	R	C	■	U	L	E	E	■	U	L	N	A	R
O	M	O	O	■	B	E	N	S	■	S	I	T	I	N
■	■	M	U	S	I	C	A	L	C	H	A	I	R	S
A	B	O	R	T	S	■	T	A	R	E	■	L	E	T
D	O	T	■	E	M	T	■	■	U	S	C	■	■	■
O	R	I	O	N	■	R	I	L	E	■	A	G	I	O
B	I	O	L	O	G	I	C	A	L	C	L	O	C	K
F	S	N	E	■	A	M	E	S	■	A	L	O	H	A
■	■	■	O	P	T	■	■	S	S	R	■	S	O	Y
I	D	O	■	R	E	B	S	■	T	O	P	E	R	S
P	E	R	I	O	D	I	C	T	A	B	L	E	■	■
A	L	S	O	P	■	P	A	W	L	■	E	G	E	R
S	T	O	N	E	■	E	L	I	A	■	A	G	E	E
S	A	N	E	R	■	D	A	N	G	■	T	S	K	S

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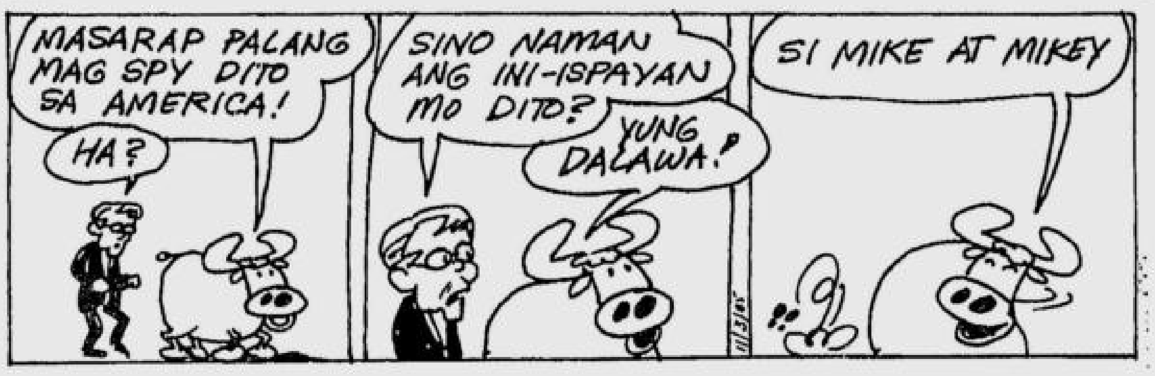
11/3/05

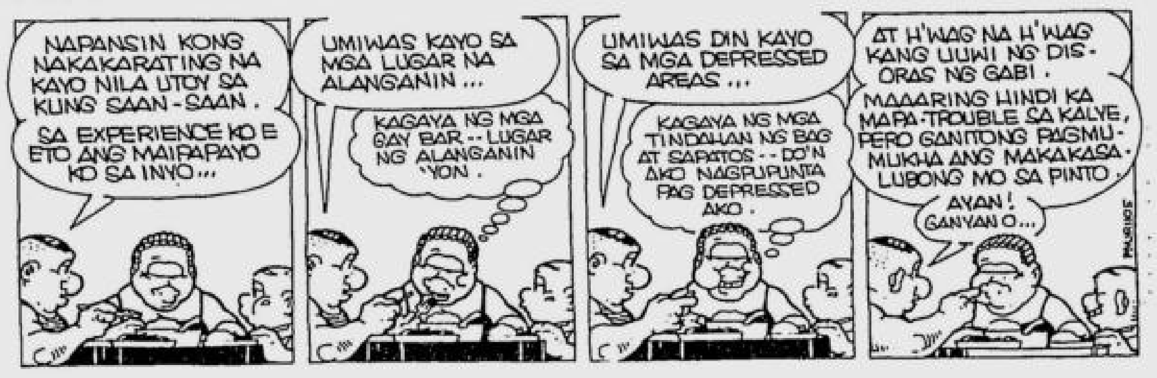
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MASARAP PALANG MAG SPY DITO SA AMERICA!
HA?
SINO NAMAN ANG INI-ISPAYAN MO DITO?
YUNG DALAWA!
11/3/05
SI MIKE AT MIKEY

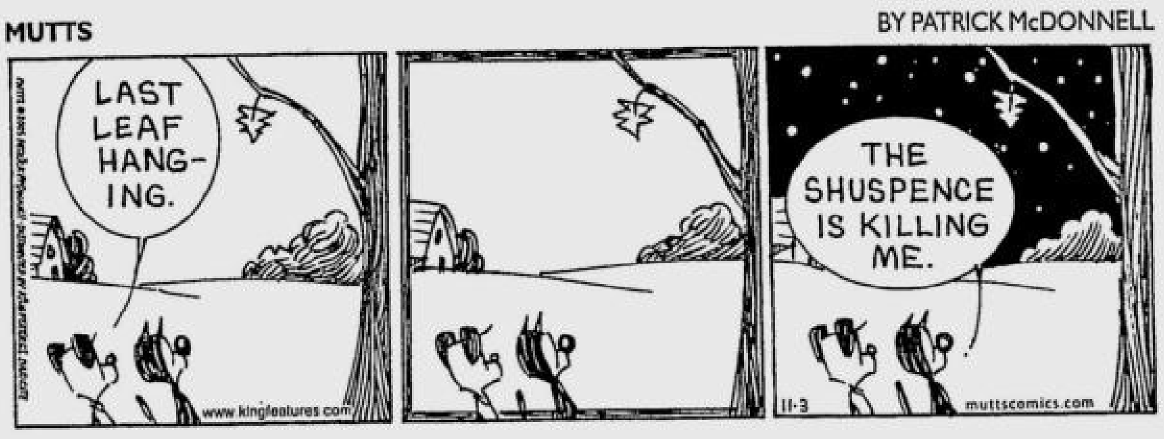
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAPANSIN KONG NAKAKARATING NA KAYO NILA UTOY SA KUNG SAAN-SAAN.
SA EXPERIENCE KO E ETO ANG MAIPAPAYO KO SA INYO...
UMIWAS KAYO SA MGA LUGAR NA ALANGANIN...
KAGAYA NG MGA GAY BAR -- LUGAR NG ALANGANIN 'YON.
UMIWAS DIN KAYO SA MGA DEPRESSED AREAS...
KAGAYA NG MGA TINDAHAN NG BAG AT SAPATOS -- DO'N AKO NAGPUPUNTA PAG DEPRESSED AKO.
AT H'WAG NA H'WAG KANG UUWI NG DIS-ORAS NG GABI.
MAAARING HINDI KA MAPA-TROUBLE SA KALYE, PERO GANITONG PAGMU-MUKHA ANG MAKAKASA-LUBONG MO SA PINTO.
AYAN! GANYAN O...

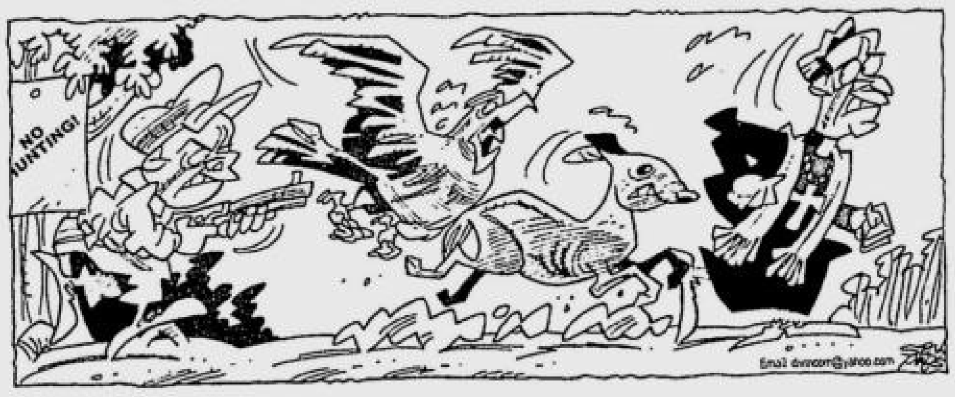
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LAST LEAF HANG-ING.
www.kingfeatures.com
THE SHUSPENCE IS KILLING ME.
11-3
muttscomics.com

DIVINE COMEDY

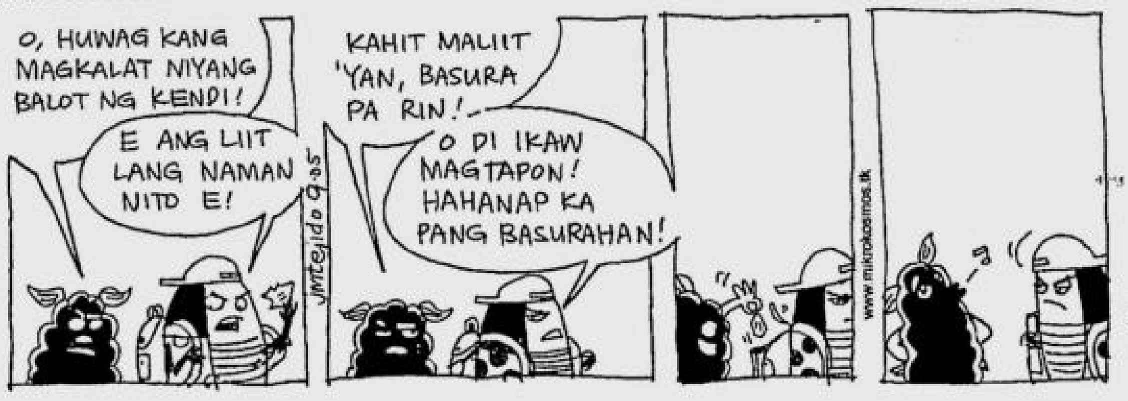
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NO HUNTING!
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

THE RARE MONKEY-EATING-EAGLE, THE ENDANGERED PHILIPPINE MOUSEDEER AND THE ALMOST-EXTINCT PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

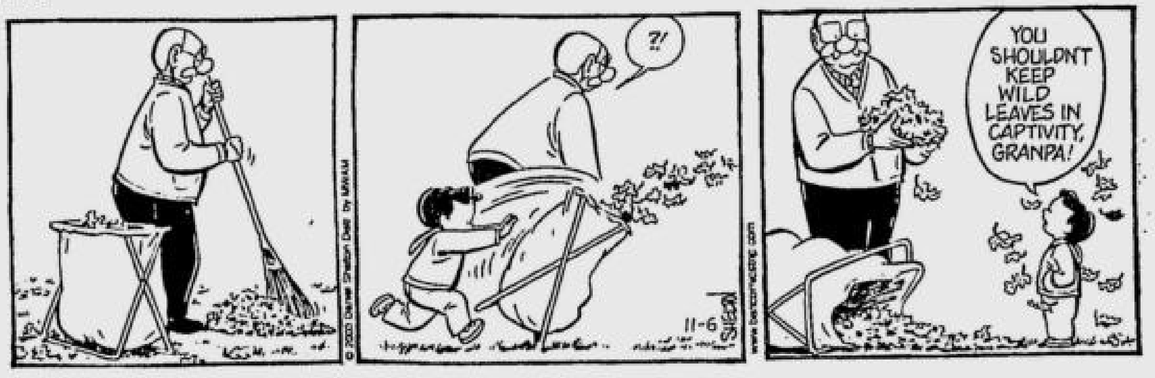
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


O, HUWAG KANG MAGKALAT NIYANG BALOT NG KENDI!
E ANG LIIT LANG NAMAN NITO E!
KAHIT MALIIT 'YAN, BASURA PA RIN!
O DI IKAW MAGTAPON! HAHANAP KA PANG BASURAHAN!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

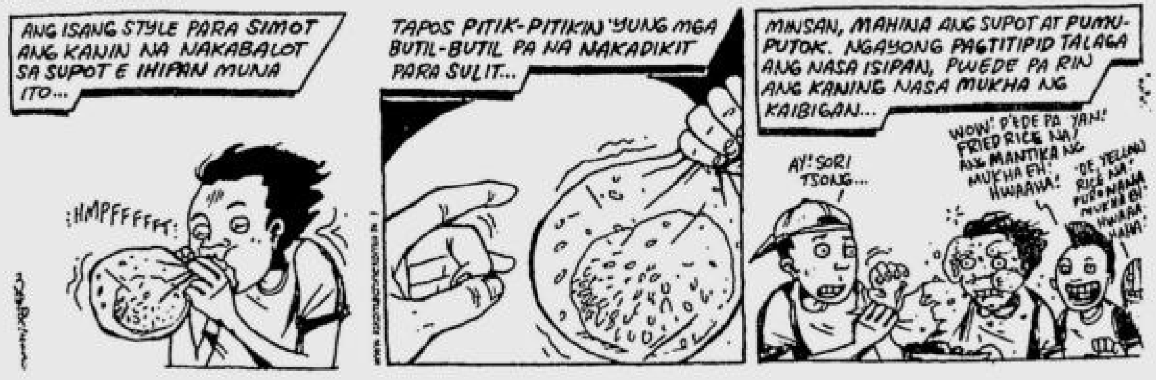
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


?!
11-6
YOU SHOULDN'T KEEP WILD LEAVES IN CAPTIVITY, GRANPA!

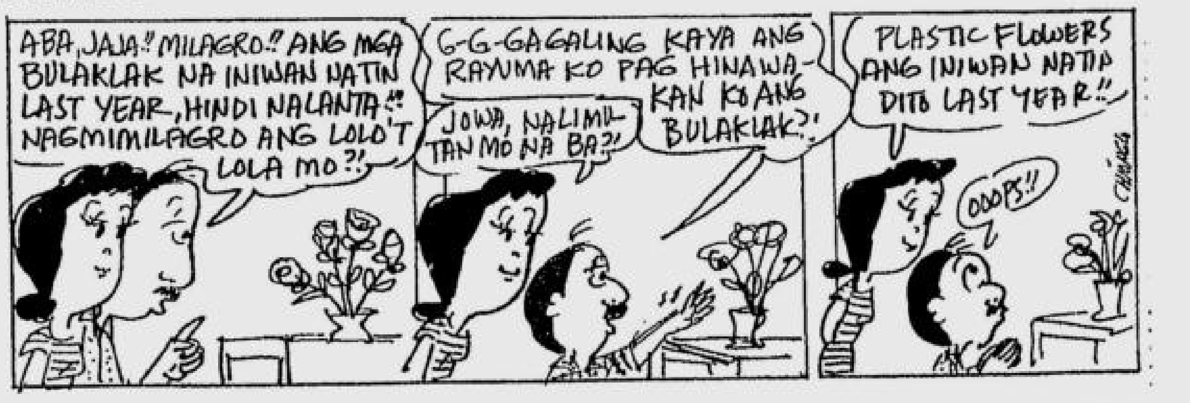
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANG ISANG STYLE PARA SIMOT ANG KANIN NA NAKABALOT SA SUPOT E IHIPAN MUNA ITO...
HMPFFFFFT!
TAPOS PITIK-PITIKIN 'YUNG MGA BUTIL-BUTIL PA NA NAKADIKIT PARA SULIT...
MINSAN, MAHINA ANG SUPOT AT PUMU-PUTOK. NGAYONG PAGTITIPID TALAGA ANG NASA ISIPAN, PWEDE PA RIN ANG KANING NASA MUKHA NG KAIBIGAN...
AY! SORI TSONG...
WOW! P'EDE PA 'YAN! FRIED RICE NA! ANG MANTIKA NG MUKHA EH! HWAHA!

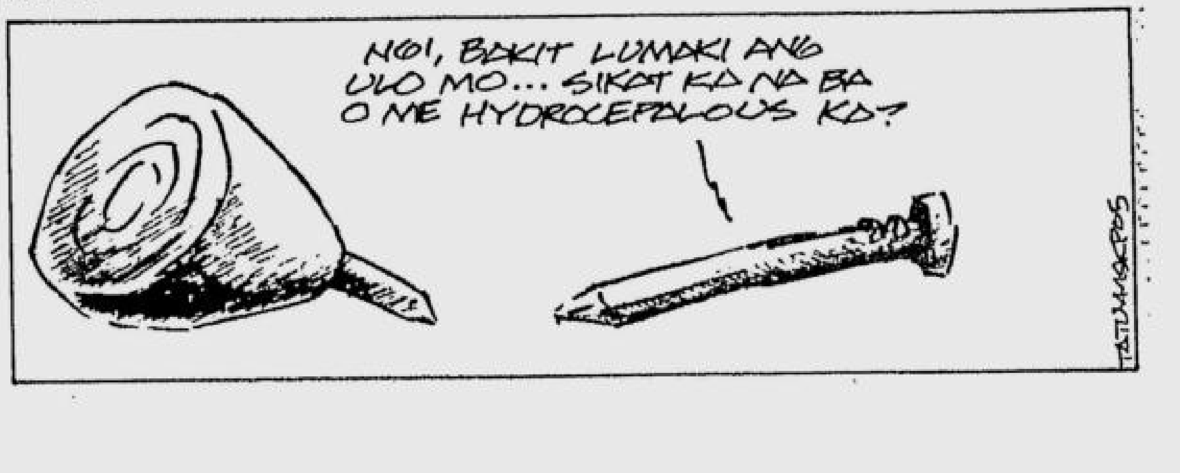
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ABA, JAJA!! MILAGRO!! ANG MGA BULAKLAK NA INIWAN NATIN LAST YEAR, HINDI NALANTA!! NAGMIMILAGRO ANG LOLO'T LOLA MO?!
G-G-GAGALING KAYA ANG RAYUMA KO PAG HINAWA-KAN KO ANG BULAKLAK?!
JOWA, NALIMU-TAN MO NA BA?!
PLASTIC FLOWERS ANG INIWAN NATIN DITO LAST YEAR!!
OOOPS!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NOI, BAKIT LUMAKI ANG ULO MO... SIKAT KA NA BA O ME HYDROCEPALOUS KA?

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

"WE were treated like criminals." ROGER CARPIO

ALMA MORENO RECOUNTS ORDEAL

Nightmare in Narita

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"*ISANG bangungot* [a nightmare]," was how actress Alma Moreno described her family's more than seven hours of detention at the Narita International Airport in Tokyo. "I was scared, but I tried to look strong and composed for my two children [9-year-old Vittorio Joey and 5-year-old Ma. Maal Venesa]."

On board Philippine Airlines Flight 432, Alma arrived in Japan at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20, accompanied by her two children (by estranged husband Joey Marquez), former partner Rudy Fernandez, present partner Ger-

ALMA/ A22

INSIDE

- **Rufa Mae denies romance with mayor** /A21

2 days to go

Battle of the Courts National Finals

Who will emerge as this year's champion?

CENTRO ATLETICO >FINALIST

dan ASTILLERO

jaime RAMOS

mafe DURANA

beth PULIDO

gina FLORES

emi JORGE

jofer VELEZ

howie VITAS

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Jam

The holiday bug bites early in November!

INQUIRER
JUST SHOP
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LJ REYES
Food for thought: Sweets for Yuletide treats
Cream of the crop: Bryanboy shops the world wide web
70 gift giveaways
day delight
IT'S FREE!
Get dressed with fab shirts from Van Heusen
Rev up your style with this season's new knits
Classic khakis: Why men love them
Turn on the charm with old school basics
Yuletide Classics

Out this Friday, Nov. 4

JUST SHOP gives you a double dose of shopping cheer with our special back-to-back issue.

Here's what's in store in your favorite shopping magazine:

- North polled: Two treasure troves for bargain folks
- Juan Sarte III's beauty must-haves for a hot holiday romance
- Generous Gratifications of online shopping from blogger fabuleux, Bryanboy
- 70 gift ideas for who, what, why, and where
- Van Heusen's banquet for Men of Style

Email us your Christmas wish list and get a chance to win a limited edition SHU UEMURA Cleansing Oil set and compact designed by Ai Yamaguchi.

So fill out your wish list, fill up your Christmas stocking, and fill in your Yuletide shopping needs with JUST SHOP!

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VAT-related oil issues worry gov't

ADB ISSUES P2.5-B PESO BONDS
The Asian Development Bank recently launched its inaugural Philippine Peso Bond Issue with a maturity of 5 years, with HSBC as the lead manager and sole bookrunner. This represents a number of milestones in the local capital markets: the first issue by a foreign entity; the first supranational issue and the first issue rated triple-A by Fitch Ratings, Moody's and Standard & Poor's. Leading the signing ceremony for the issue are (from left): Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., HSBC CEO Warner Manning and ADB vice president for finance and administration Khempheng Pholsena.

2% 'presumptive' tax, 5% impost on sale to gov't agencies

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENTS OF ENERGY and of Finance are working together to address issues on the value-added tax (VAT) that will affect the oil industry, including the 2-percent presumptive tax and the 5-percent withholding tax on sale to government entities.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the industry had expressed concern over the possibility of having to pay a 2-percent presumptive input tax.

As first-time VAT payers, he explained that oil firms and dealers would be subjected to this presumptive tax.

This presumptive input tax will be creditable against the output tax, equivalent to 2 percent of the gross value of their purchases of materials used as inputs to production.

The DOE and the DOF would have to work on specific guidelines for the slapping of this particular tax, Lotilla said.

Another concern, he said, was related to the reduction in tariff on crude and refined petroleum products from 5 percent to 3 percent starting Nov. 1.

He said the DOE would have to work out a scheme with the DOF to make the tariff reduction retroactive to between 15 and 45 days to make the lower tariff effective for product inventories that were bought prior to the tariff reduction but would be sold after the implementation of the VAT.

Refined petroleum product importers, for example, kept an inventory of at least 15 days. This meant that the products they sold starting Nov. 1, the day the VAT was implemented, were bought at the 5-percent tariff level.

Refiners such as Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., on the other hand, kept an inventory of between 30 and 45 days.

Lotilla said the DOE and the BOC had docu-

VAT-RELATED/ B2

Movie houses get reprieve on VAT row

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue has temporarily suspended the collection of "unpaid" value-added tax liabilities of cinema operators as the latter continued to insist that they were not exempt from the VAT.

Under Revenue Memorandum Order No. 26-2005, revenue officers were told not to issue assessment notices to theater owners regarding their alleged deficiency in VAT payments since 1996—estimated at about P1 billion—while the issue is still being resolved in the Court of Tax Appeals.

Lucita Rodriguez, spokesperson for the BIR, said the suspension was also intended to give time to the revenue agency to review the merits of the claim of theater owners. In the next few weeks, she said, the BIR might arrive at a new policy on the issue.

Theater owners said they should not be required to pay the 10-percent VAT because they were already subject to the 30-percent amusement tax, which is a type of percentage tax. Requiring them to pay VAT would mean

MOVIE/ B4

HEADHUNTERS

Foreign employers coming to Manila

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOREIGN EMPLOYERS FROM THE MIDDLE East, Europe, Asia and the Americas are gathering at the Philippine International Convention Center next week to hunt for thousands of professionals and skilled workers, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Employers from some 20 countries would be meeting with local job placement agencies during the labor department's First International Labor Mart on Nov. 10 and 11.

Labor officials have said the government was pursuing new and additional opportunities abroad to create 65,000 jobs and to reach its target of helping secure a million a jobs a year.

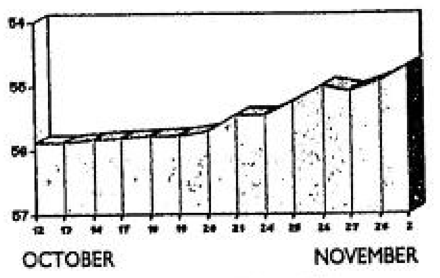
POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the event was part of the Department of Labor and Employment's Labor opportunity program or Dolop.

Dolop is an inbound marketing initiative of the DOLE and the private sector and is aimed at creating more employment opportunities and expanding the Filipino's share of the global labor market.

FOREIGN/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



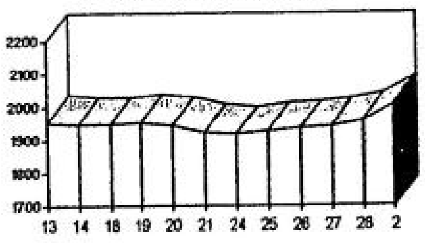
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.720 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 2, 2005

¥ 116.83 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 2, 2005

GOLD: $461.50-462.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 2, 2005

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 2.37% up

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 2.37 percent higher to a near three-month peak yesterday as investors cheered the implementation of an expanded value-added tax (VAT) designed to

SHARES/ B4

WHAT'S INSIDE

GMA 7 raising capital to P5B /B4

Benguet eyes several mine sites /B8

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Justice of the fist

First of two parts

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TODAY WE PRESENT THE RULING of the Supreme Court issued just two weeks ago, which hit the Ombudsman right in the face.

The Supreme Court ordered the Ombudsman to investigate some 37 individuals accused of graft and corruption, plus a little known crime called "plunder."

The case involved that problematic airport terminal project known as Naia 3—already more than 10 years in the making, and is, still, in the making.

Also, the Supreme Court handed down another landmark ruling on Naia 3, just when everybody was hailing some bigshot as the project's savior.

He is none other than newspaper owner Emilio Yap, a.k.a. Don Emilio to some people in media, who is also the main stockholder of the Manila Hotel.

Now, it took the Supreme Court some time to rule, as it has been almost four years since the petitioners filed the case.

Petitioners are the airport-related businesses calling themselves "Maso," or the MIAA-NAIA Association of Service Operators.

The ruling, in effect, reversed the Office of the Ombudsman which dismissed cases against those 37 or so people, including two former Cabinet members.

***

IT all started some eight years ago when, in 1997, a group called Piatco and the DOTC (during the administration of Fidel "Kuya Eddie" Ramos) signed a multi-billion-peso deal.

The contract involved the Naia 3, precisely, as a BOT project initiated by the country's richest Chinese-Filipinos, but mysteriously repositioned to Piatco.

A year later in 1998, this time under the administration of the man named Band… Wrist Band…, the DOTC modified several provisions in the contract.

Aside from the modifications, the Wrist Band administration also gave the Piatco contract a "supplement."

Under this cute administration of Gloriaettta, the same contract went through two more "supplements."

Nobody knew at that time if, like an athlete perhaps, the contract between DOTC and Piatco needed a lot of vitamins.

It's just that the Supreme Court did not look kindly at those changes.

***

IN its latest ruling on cases involving the Naia 3, the Supreme Court said that the preliminary investigation of the Ombudsman was incomplete.

It seems to the five justices of the Supreme Court, chaired by Justice Artemio Panganiban, that the Ombudsman also conducted its investigation hastily.

Said the ruling: "The records bear these out."

***

NOW, as a business organization, MASO merely watched out for the interest of its members when it filed complaints before the Ombudsman regarding Naia 3.

The Supreme Court ruling took particular interest in the following complaints of the group:

- Those vitamins, este, "supplements" to the contract basically created a monopoly at the international airport in Manila—and in fact the whole of Luzon—and that monopoly would be under the exclusive realm of a private business group.
- Under those changes, the existing service companies at the airport could no longer operate, as in "closed down," unless Piatco approves them.
- Another defect in the contract was that the government must pay up, if Piatco would default on its foreign debts,
- Piatco could also continue to operate the Naia 3, even after the 25-year contract expires, if the government would still owe Piatco any compensation under the contract—meaning, Piatco could run the terminal INDEFINITELY.
- Piatco could mortgage the facility,
- Finally, while Piatco would pay the government P750 million a year for 25 years, the government, in comparison, would lose the P12 billion a year it is earning from Naia 1 and Naia 2, which would have to cease operations as international airports when Piatco opens Naia 3. *(To be continued).*

CURRENCIES

November 2, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.832224	1.000000	55.0490
Japan	Yen	0.007135	0.008574	0.4720
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469624	1.765900	97.2110
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107362	0.129006	7.1017
Switzerland	Franc	0.646337	0.776639	42.7532
Canada	Dollar	0.707914	0.850629	46.8263
Singapore	Dollar	0.490988	0.589971	32.4773
Australia	Dollar	0.619906	0.744879	41.0048
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.209189	2.654562	146.1310
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221914	0.266652	14.6789
Brunei	Dollar	0.489543	0.588235	32.3817
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020388	0.024498	1.3486
UAE	Dirham	0.226585	0.272264	14.9879
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.201600	66.1469
Argentina	Peso	0.278336	0.334448	18.4110
Brazil	Real	0.369630	0.444148	24.4499
Denmark	Kroner	0.134025	0.161044	8.8653
India	Rupee	0.018474	0.022198	1.2220
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220486	0.264936	14.5845
Mexico	New Peso	0.077362	0.092958	5.1172
New Zealand	Dollar	0.581243	0.698422	38.4474
Norway	Kroner	0.128382	0.154264	8.4921
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013947	0.016759	0.9226
South Africa	Rand	0.124775	0.149930	8.2535
Korea	Won	0.000798	0.000959	0.0528
Sweden	Kroner	0.104261	0.125280	6.8965
Syria	Pound	0.016032	0.019264	1.0605
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024815	0.029818	1.6415
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000388	0.000466	0.0257

Aboitiz shipping firm suffers P92.7-M loss

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM Corp., the leading provider of domestic ferry transportation services in the country, reported a net loss of P92.7 million as of Sept. 30.

ATSC said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it suffered a loss during the period, from a profit of P213.72 million last year, due to the increase in overall costs and expenses, including finance costs.

The increase in costs offset the slight increase in revenues during the period to P6.3 billion, from P6.2 billion in the same period last year.

ATSC said total costs and expenses reached P6.1 billion, swelling by 7 percent over the same period last year.

The increase was largely due to the 19-percent increase in the depreciation of the ships and improvements.

Total depreciation of ships and improvements reached P699 million for the nine months ending Sept. 30.

Other factors contributing to the rise in costs and expenses included the 13-percent increase in terminal expenses and the 6-percent rise in operating costs due to higher fuel prices.

ATSC said it was currently working on several plans to bring down costs.

Consolidated assets of the company at the end of the third quarter amounted to P9.2 billion, while total liabilities reached P5.1 billion.

Total bank debt stood at roughly P2.6 billion, with no additional borrowings made during the period.

Stockholders' equity stood at P4.1 billion, while cash generated from operations amounted to P 1.1 billion.

ATSC also said it funded its capital expenditures worth P664 million during the nine-month period with internally-generated cash. It also cut debt by P362 million during the period.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 2, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	32.5	31	32	1,262,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	56.5	52	56.5	2,731,800
China Banking Corp.	635	635	635	635	20
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank, Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	890,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	49.5	48.5	49.5	595,600
International Exch. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	35,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27.5	26.5	27	484,300
Philippine National Bank	30	30.5	30	30	177,200
Phil. Savings Bank	35	36	35	36	400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	31	29.5	30.5	52,900
Union Bank ofThe Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	2,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2830	2835	2830	2830	390
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	130,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2000	2000	800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	13.75	53,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.91	2,950,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	715	720	715	715	28,440
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	3.1	2.95	3.1	6,130,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1665	1710	1665	1705	152,050
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	10,600
Manila Electric Co. B	20.5	21	20.5	20.75	238,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	11,282,000
Petron Corp.	3.4	3.65	3.4	3.65	6,091,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	76,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.5	10	9.5	9.9	2,190,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	220,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	1,300,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.75	1,564,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.6	3.6	330,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	19,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36.5	39.5	36.5	39.5	549,200
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	160,000
Swift Food, Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	125,000
San Miguel Corp. B	89	90	89	89.5	274,300
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16.25	16	16	253,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	290	297.5	290	295	284,450
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	2,181,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.24	2.14	2.22	1,755,000
APC Group Inc.	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	420,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	300,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.5	19,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	1.02	0.98	1.02	6,370,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	4,530,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.05	647,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	743,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	404,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	100,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	850,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	35,000
Ipvg Corp.	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.5	3,493,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4	4	3.95	3.95	3,196,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	12,108,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	17,290,000
Paxys Inc.	5	5.1	5	5	1,605,000
Roxas Holdings, Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	96,000
SM Investments Corp.	228	240	228	240	358,020
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	3,150,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.92	3,670,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.5	14	13.5	14	100,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.5	34,000
Far Eastern University	620	620	620	620	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	7,862,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	7,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	340,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	5,870,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	290,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	3,850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.38	1.3	1.38	6,809,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.21	0.2	0.21	2,900,000
City & Land Developers	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	18,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	6	5.8	6	759,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.2	12,111,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	115,000,000
Atlas Cons Min & Dev't	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	178,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	18,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	830,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.235	0.245	0.235	0.245	2,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	10,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.023	58,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	637,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.04	3,779,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.28	10,068,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25	25.5	70,300
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	200,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4	4.05	4	4.05	208,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.125	160,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	140,000

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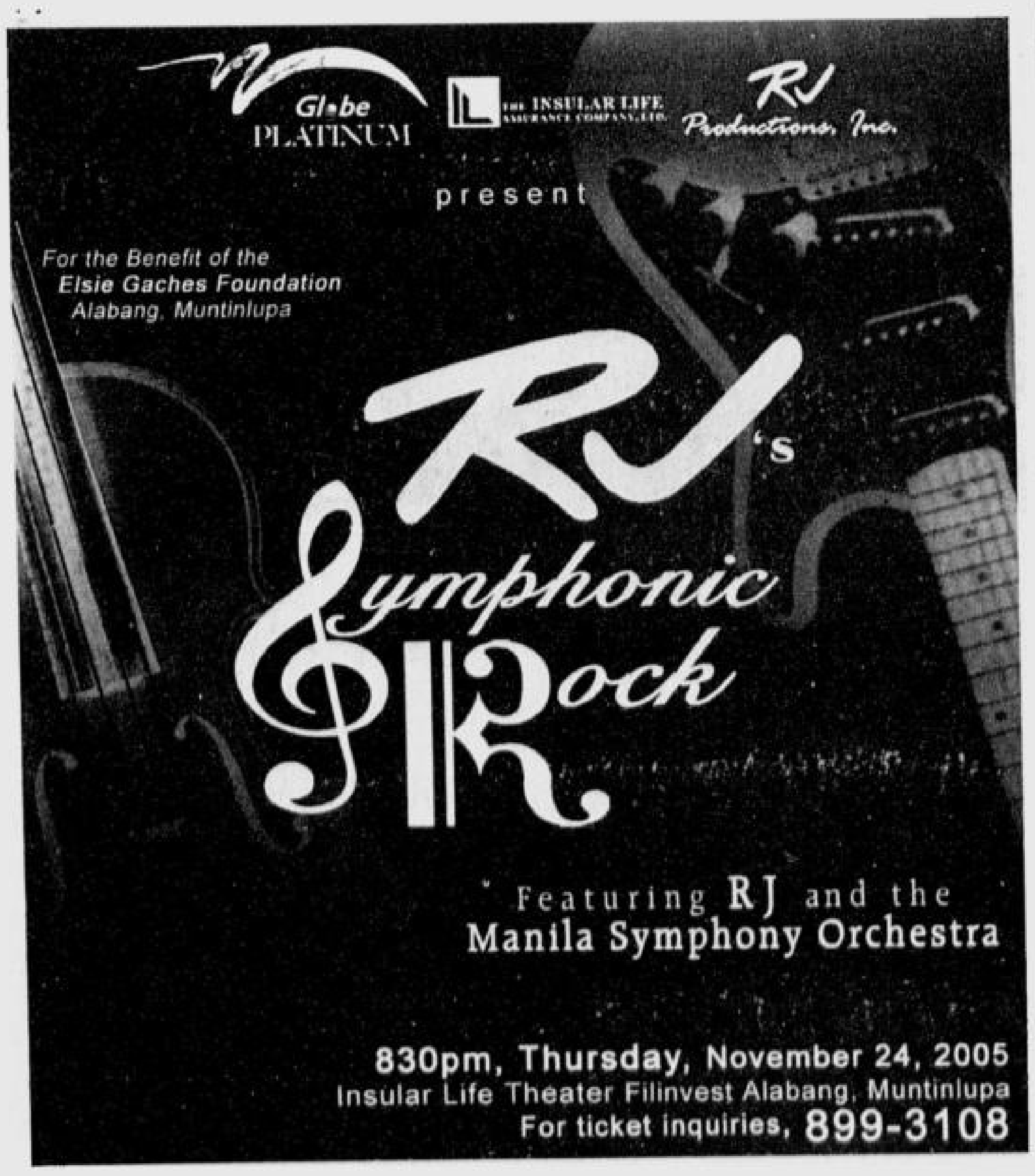

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NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS OF PAXYS, INC. (Formerly Fil Hispano Holdings Corporation)

The Securities and Exchange Commission has approved on October 14, 2005 the amendments to the corporation's Articles of Incorporation changing its corporate name to PAXYS, INC. and increasing its authorized capital stock to Php1.2 Billion.

On November 7, 2005 the corporation will start using new stock certificates bearing the new corporate name and the new authorized capital stock for all issuances. The corporation shall likewise be replacing outstanding stock certificates with new certificates. Accordingly, kindly surrender for replacement all your Fil Hispano stock certificates to the Stock Transfer Department, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, the Corporation's Transfer Agent. Their offices are at the 9/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City.

Please take your stock certificates to the Transfer Agent personally or through a duly authorized representative. You may also courier them to the Transfer Agent. You may also send them by ordinary mail but we do not encourage this. You may wish to have the replacement certificate(s) mailed or couriered back to you, at your expense.

You will receive a notice when the new certificate(s) will be ready for pick up, i.e., about ten (10) working days after the surrender of the old certificate(s).

There is no fee for the stock certificate replacement. But if you want to split a stock certificate, there is a Php100 fee for every new certificate to be issued in excess of one. Multiple certificates of a stockholder will be consolidated into one new stock certificate, unless there are instructions to the contrary.

Within three (3) months from October 14, 2005, the old certificates may still be traded at the Philippine Stock Exchange. After the said period, old certificates must be replaced with new ones before they can be traded.

Lastly, "PAX" is your corporation's new trading symbol.

Sgd.

TARCISIO M. MEDALLA
Chairman and President

Foreign . . .

From page B1

Baldoz said it was likely that the government-private sector target of providing overseas employment for a million Filipinos would be exceeded this year.

She said job opportunities would be coursed through recruitment agencies licensed by the POEA.

"Professionals and specialists are encouraged to register with the recruitment and manning agencies for matching of their work skills with the hiring criteria set by overseas employers, particularly those arriving for the labor mart," she added.

POEA data showed that employers in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kazakhstan as well as Iran were running short of workers for their billion-dollar infrastructure development projects in oil and gas, electricity, water and communications sectors.

In these countries, specialists are also needed in projects involved in the sectors of engineering design and construction, retail, health services, finance information technology and hotel and tourism sectors.

Nurses, midwives, caregivers and other medical workers are needed especially in Saudi Arabia, Israel, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, United Kingdom, Singapore and Slovenia.

VAT-related . . .

From page B1

ments that could validate which part of the oil firms' inventories were bought at pre-VAT tariff levels and sold after VAT implementation.

Yet another concern, more for the government than for oil firms, was the implementation of a final withholding tax on sales to government entities.

He said this was one particular item in the implementing rules and regulations of RA 9337, or the VAT Reform Law, that would have to be addressed at the soonest possible time as it could place some additional burden on government agencies, including government-owned or -controlled corporations.

"For one, this introduces a different pricing system to government entities. Also, dealers will have to pass on to government the additional costs that they can't absorb. This means that government entities may have to pay more," he said.

UCPB selling share in Makati condo for ₱3B

Getting out of non-core businesses

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK will sell its entire stake in upscale residential condominium Fraser Place in Makati for about P3 billion, taking advantage of the upturn in the property sector to get out of this non-core business.

UCPB owns 53 percent or 76 of the 143 apartment units. Unit sizes vary from 154 square meters to 500 square meters.

The high-rise apartments, formerly known as Forbes Tower, is co-owned by Singapore-based institutional property developer Pramerica Real Estate Investors Inc. It is located on Valero Street, Makati City.

"That has been our game plan all along. We held on to the property because the market was down and now that it is picking up strongly, we think the time is ripe to sell," UCPB vice president for asset management and disposition division Christine Carandang said in a press statement yesterday.

The units will be sold fully furnished and fitted-out to individual investors, Carandang said.

Under the serviced apartments concept, the individual units are leased out, and their owners receive shares of the total lease revenue of Fraser Place for the year.

Carandang said investor interest was expected to be very high at this time and that UCPB should be able to command a good price.

"We're already starting to get serious inquiries, which is not surprising because Fraser is a well-known international brand," said Marissa Benitez, director for residential sales and leasing of Colliers International, which has been appointed exclusive marketing arm for the sale.

"Fraser Place is an excellent long-term investment given its choice location in a quiet district of the Makati central business district and the reputation and track record of the operator," Benitez added.

Being a condominium development, Fraser Place's units are covered by Condominium Certificate of Title, which means even foreigners can own them, Benitez pointed out.

Fraser Place is being managed by Fraser Serviced Residences Pte Ltd. Singapore, one of the three biggest serviced apartments operators in the Lion City. The company operates similar establishments in Korea, Thailand, China, France and the United Kingdom.

Carandang stressed that Fraser Place had been doing well, becoming a top choice of expatriates working for Philippine-based multinationals and foreign businessmen and tourists who come over to the country for an extended stay.

In 2004, Fraser Place recorded an occupancy rate of 91 percent and received the "Best Premiere International Serviced Residence" award from the National Consumers Affairs Foundation.

SBC upgrades ATM network

SECURITY BANK CORP. UPGRADES ITS NETwork of automated teller machines with the installation of the most advanced models of ATMs. The two-in-one ATMs and bills payment machine are deployed in key strategic locations nationwide. At least 56 onsite ATMs in Security Bank branches will soon be available to accept cardless bills payment. The expansion provides greater safety and convenience to its customers with added multifunction features that deliver a comprehensive range of transactions with the most advanced capabilities for self-service banking.

The new Security Bank ATM, called the NCR Personas Full Function M Series 86, is the latest model in the banking industry that allows a bank a vast capability for a variety of account services to customers 24/7. Both depositors and non-depositors of Security Bank may now benefit from its state-of-the-art features, including cardless bills payment, any time of the day and night. This is on top of the traditional ATM services of cash deposit, cash withdrawal.

The user-friendly design increases customer confidence being EMV compatible and fully compliant with international security standards for Triple Data Encryption Standards (Triple DES) giving added protection to the cardholder's pin number.

PNB posts 9-month profit of ₱454M

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK said it posted a net profit of P454 million from January to September, which was 220 percent higher than last year's P142 million.

The bank, which returned to profitability in 2003 and is now three years ahead of financial targets under its five-year rehabilitation plan, said the rise in net earnings was fueled by a 26-percent growth in interest income to P7.73 billion during the period from a year ago.

Given the nine-month profit, the bank has exceeded the P315-million bottom line recorded for the full year 2004.

Interest income on regular loans alone increased by P1.06 billion to reach P3.57 billion.

Interest expenses dipped by one percent to P4.35 billion, allowing net interest income to almost double to P3.38 billion over the P1.7 billion posted in the nine-month period in 2004.

Fee-based income likewise pumped in about P4 billion to the bank's coffers.

At end-September, PNB's total resources stood at P219.32 billion, with P165.08 billion in total deposits and P22.95 billion in capital funds.

Following debt restructuring efforts and other workout activities, past due level is down to P24.53 billion, some P11.59 billion or 32 percent less than its P36.12 billion burden as of end-2004.

Likewise, the bank's non-performing loans ratio improved to 29.2 percent from 39 percent at end-2004, representing a reduction of 10 percent.

The joint sale by the Philippine government and the Lucio Tan group of their combined 67-percent stake in PNB was completed in the third quarter of 2005.

The purchase of the government's shares by the Lucio Tan group, the bank said, would speed up the development of its franchise and operational competitiveness.

Despite being fully privatized, PNB will remain a government depository bank until 2007.

In its effort to keep the industry leadership in the OFW remittance business, PNB also stepped up its marketing efforts, focusing on the lucrative overseas remittance market with Global Filipino Money Card. This is an automated teller machine card that overseas remitters and remittance beneficiaries can obtain even without opening a PNB account.

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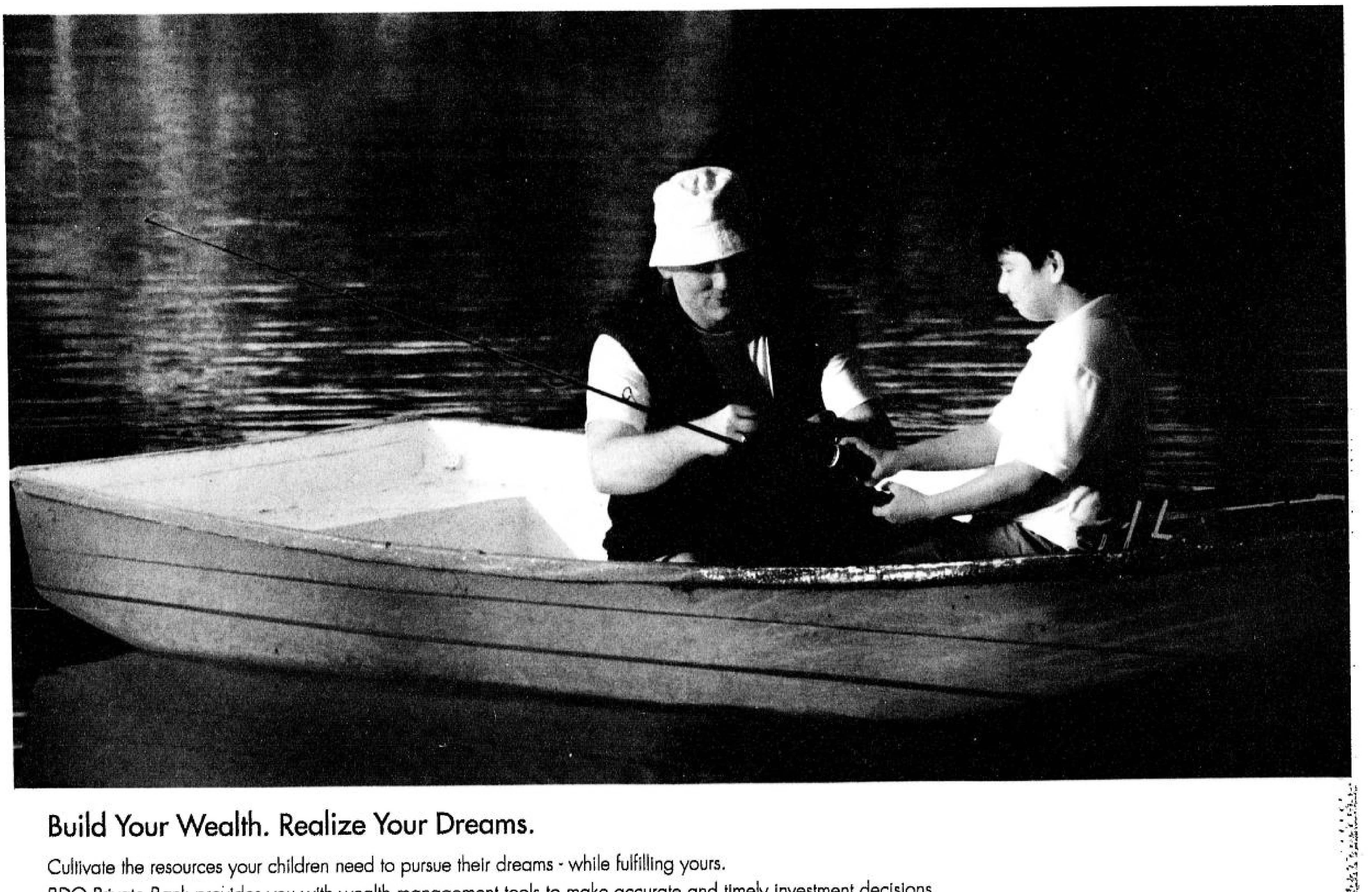

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Ecozones in ARMM

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THE UNTAPPED BUSINESS OPportunities in the five provinces of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) pushed local legislators to create the Regional Economic Zone Authority (Reza), by virtue of Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act No. 154.

Although similar to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), Reza differs significantly as it is focused on creating attractive and healthy business environment suitable to the unique characteristics of this autonomous region. It has exclusive jurisdiction over ecozones located in the component provinces and cities of the ARMM. This agency was established to grant incentives to foreign and local investors inside industrial estates and special economic zones with the ARMM. The creation of Reza is part of ARMM's mission to aggressively promote profitable ventures, particularly investments in the agriculture and information technology sectors.

With the vast land that makes up its regions, ARMM boasts of producing almost all kinds of crops—corn, palay, abaca, coconut, root crops and nuts. This enables local companies to competitively export their foods products, particularly bananas which are shipped to Saudi Arabia. In addition, the felt presence of the rich, Islamic culture in its communities highlighted ARMM as a potential key player in the world Halal market. In fact, Halal-related investments are ARMM's top-billed priorities for its ecozones.

In pursuing this, a tripartite agreement between the ARMM Business Council (ABC), Darul Ifta (House of Opinion) and DTI-ARMM was reached for the purpose of establishing a credible Halal Certification Board. With this initiative, DTI-ARMM Secretary Ishak Mastura hopes to encourage investors to seriously invest in the Mindanao Halal industry and to take advantage of the growing, international demand for Halal products.

Areas initially identified as Special Development Growths Zones are Parang in Maguindanao, Bongao in Tawi-Tawi, Lamitan in Basilan, and Marawi City and Malabang in Lanao del Sur. Now, the vision is clearly being realized as DTI-ARMM, the interim agency operating the Reza, granted ARMM's first freeport zone in Sulu an ecozone status.

ARMM is armed and ready to do business with the world. With the continuous improvement of Reza's operations and advocacy, and the support from different stakeholders, the many potentials of ARMM can now be recognized, and its rich resources shall encourage investors to see ARMM as a true haven for business.

(Ms Bian is an advocate for Mindanao; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and the National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET; Mindanao representative, Export Development Council; chair, Joji Ilagan Foundation; former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: (632) 712-3341 TO 64 FAX NO.: (632) 712-1110 E-MAIL: www.nfa.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Provision of Insurance Packages to NFA Employees for year 2006

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P21,122,469.50* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the provision of Insurance Packages to NFA Employees for year 2006*, as follows:

Lot	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Group Hospitalization Insurance Program	14,000,000.00
2	Executive Health Care Program	1,100,000.00
3	Group Accident Insurance Program	1,307,059.00
4	Group Term Life Insurance	4,715,410.00
	TOTAL	21,122,469.50

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the provision of Insurance Packages to NFA Employees for year 2006*. Period of coverage is January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all Interested parties on** *November 11, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* **on** November 25, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 25, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons - *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address - *101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No. - *(632) 712-3341 loc. 8923 or 8520*
e-mail address - *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No. - *(632) 712-0454*
Website - *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI--Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2005)

GMA 7 raising capital to ₱5B

Preparing for IPO in 2006

By Clarissa S. Batino

GOZON

GMA NETWORK INC. IS RAISING its authorized capital to P5 billion, from P2 billion, in preparation for its initial public offering next year, a company official said.

The capital hike was approved recently by the owners and directors of GMA 7. It will soon be submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission for approval.

Of its existing P2-billion authorized capital, P1.25 billion had been paid up.

The official said the public offering would have a PDR (Philippine Depository Receipt) component.

GMA 7 is selling between 20 percent and 30 percent of its stocks to the public by the first quarter of 2006, GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon said in an earlier interview. The IPO is expected to raise about P9 billion.

The network was valued at P30 billion last year but Gozon believed the figure would likely be higher now.

GMA 7 registered more than P700 million in net income in the third quarter, bringing its profit for the first nine months of the year to P1.74 billion, or 58 percent higher than the P1.09 billion posted in the same period in 2004.

This prompted Gozon to say that the company would definitely exceed its P2-billion profit target for this year.

Financial advisers ATR Kim-Eng and Deutsche Bank are updating the audit of the network to determine its market value.

The network had planned to hold its IPO in the first half this year but this was shelved due to issues involving its three major stockholders.

Movie houses get reprieve . . .

From page B1

double taxation, they claimed.

Under the law, firms should be subject to a sales tax either in the form of VAT or a percentage tax.

But the BIR earlier said the amusement tax paid by theater owners were remitted to local government units and not to the national government. BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the revenue agency was previously asserting its right to collect VAT from theater owners, considering that the Tax Code requires firms to pay a sales tax to the national government.

Henares said the payment of an amusement tax by theater owners was under a separate law—the Local Government Code.

But Rodriguez said the BIR decided to review its stand on the issue given the continued opposition of industry players.

After its members first received notice of tax collection from the BIR, the National Cinema Association of the Philippines (NCAP) wrote a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo in July, asking her to intervene in the issue.

The group said many cinema operators have already shut down operations since 2001 because of the unfavorable business environment. Even major player Robinsons Movie World of the Gokongwei family has been affected, closing down 23 cinemas since July, the group said.

NCAP noted that the industry directly benefited about 90,000 employees and provided employment to more than 175,000 people in the downstream and related industries.

Among NCAP's active members are the SM Cinemas, Robinson's Movie World, the Ayala Cinemas, the Araneta Group, Cinema 2000, and Festival Mall Cinemas.

Shares . . .

From page B1

shore up the government's fiscal position, dealers said. *(See story on Page A1.)*

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 46.90 points to close at the day's high of 2,007.12. It earlier hit a low of 1,960.22.

It was the index's best finish since Aug. 12, when it settled at 2,038.10.

Volume reached one billion shares worth P1.2 billion. Gainers overwhelmed losers 63 to 14, with 34 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index rose 27.75 points to 1,218.77. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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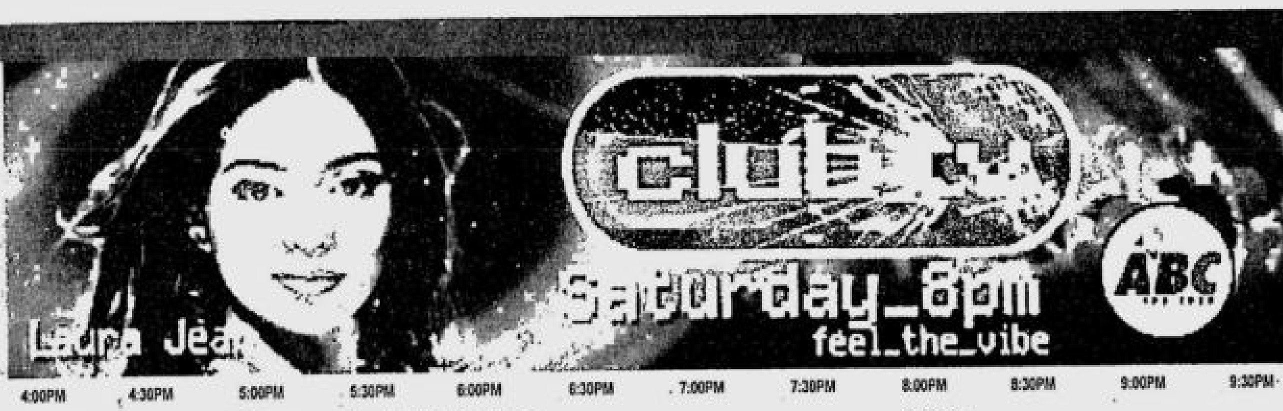
TV GUIDE
Thursday November 3, 2005



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Barclays EPL		EPL Goals		Sentro	Mumbai Thriller	S.O.S		Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	Rockstar: Inxs	Inq TV		Billboard On-Air
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		The Ultimate Fighter		Traffic		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Demolition Nights		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Shepherds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Alert	MTV Cribs	That MTV Chart Show		Pimp My Ride	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Punk'D	Brand New	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				World Tenpin Masters '05			Women's Golf Samsung World C'ships '05				Soccer FIFA Fever	Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards 2005 Men's World Summit of Pool		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Nfl's Greatest Moments	Pool/ Snooker Masters Cup 2004		Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports													Sports Desk	US 9-Ball Open 2005				Sports Desk	
Sports Plus				This Is The PGA Tour		Celebrity Poker Tournament				Slipstream		NFL 2005						MBNA 500 Highlights	
Cinemax	Keeper Of The City			Guarding Tess (4.15 PM)			Cop & 1/2 (5.45 PM)			Against The Ropes (7.15 PM)				Battlestar Galactica Mission 1			Battlestar Galactica Mission 2		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Strong Medicine		Fast Food High			Judging Amy (10.35 PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Lizzie Mcguire		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Beyond The Bermuda Triangle		Extreme Machines		IBM Innovation Hour		Wild Science		Deadliest Season In The World		Power Zone	
National Geographic		Megastructures		Marine Machines		Red Spam		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Catastrophe The Super Twisters/ Nat'l Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Marine Machines	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Cow At The Moo-vies	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	The Drew Carey Show	Less Than Perfect	The Apprentice		Friends	Scrubs
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season III)		Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	24		24		The Shield	
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	WWE: No Mercy				Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Manila Uncovered	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		GBB	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	Sex & The Single Mom			Lost In Translation			Bullseye! (5.45 PM)				Anaconda			Innerspace				Mary Reilly	
Star Movies		Rapid Fire (3.15 PM)				The In-Laws (4.50 PM)			Armageddon					Die Another Day				Agent Cody Banks (11.15PM)	
Cinema One		Winter Holiday				Pakisabi Na Lang Na Mahal Ko Siya				Carta Alas				Dama: Ang Pagbabalik				Di Ko Kayang Tanggapin	
EWTN	St. Faustina: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3.15 PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9.15 PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

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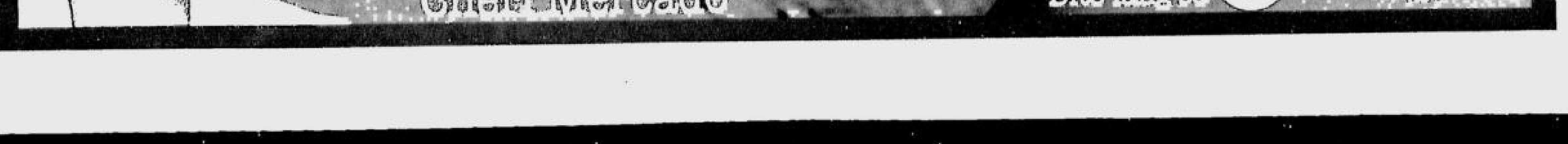
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PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
(036) 6210-036 Local 254
Fax No.: (036) 6210-036 local 158

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE** invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Name of Contract : Construction of Rubberized Oval for the Villareal Stadium
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P20,000,000.00
Source of Fund : General Fund

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Starting of submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application of Eligibility	Oct. 27-Nov. 24, 2005
2. Issuance of Bid documents	Nov. 08, 2005
3. Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 25, 2005
4. Opening of Bids	Dec. 6, 2005

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of prescribed non-refundable fee of PESOS: Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).
3. Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address.
4. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and must be delivered to the PGSO on or before the bid closing date.
6. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
7. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract; and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **DANTE B. BERMEJO**
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PDI--Oct. 26 & Nov. 3, 2005)

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announcement

INQUIRER Kalaw and Main branches will be open on Friday, November 4 from 9 am to 1 pm only.

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
NPC-MMSD 2005-025

Hauling Services & various Spare Parts for NPC Small Power Utilities Group

1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC), through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of **(Please see schedule under item no. 9)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. NPC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS listed below. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NPC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM from Monday to Friday. Issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on October 27, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents shall be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. NPC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on dates listed below at the designated NPC function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address as listed in the Bid Documents on or before the dates stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form as stated in the Bid Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates specified hereunder at the designated NPC function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./ Inquiry No.	ABC (In Pesos)	Bid Docs Price
I	November 22, 2005 10:00 AM Kañao Room	Supply of labor, technical skills, materials equipment, etc. for the overhauling & dynamic balancing of four (4) units Exhaust Gas Turbo-chargers type VTR 304A for Power Barge 105	PB051122-MMVB3793 MR-PB5-05-0092	3,141,976.00	1,000.00
II		Computer Leasing (78 units of Notebook Computer) for ISTD, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Q.C.	IST-2005 010	2,340,000.00	1,000.00
III		Spare Parts for 2 x 560 kw at Torrijos DPP "Dale"	PB051122-MMVB3794 SL-TOR- 05-0076	5,201,640.00	2,000.00
IV		Spare Parts for 2 x 560KW for Torrijos DPP "CKD"	PB051122-MMVB3795 SL-TOR- 05-063	1,062,400.00	500.00
V	November 22, 2005 2:00 PM Kañao Room	Hauling Services: Pier to Door Delivery of diesel fuel from Masbate Pier to various Luzon SPUG Plants	PB051122-MMVB3796 HO-LOD-05-0173	2,900,080.00	1,000.00
VI		Motor Core Tester 90-130V/ 180-260V 80Hz @ 10VA for WMTSD	PB051122-MMVB3797 HO-MTS- 05-0143	2,900,000.00	1,000.00
VII		Parts for Air Compressor 1 & 2 HC 85M; Maker: Hasegawa Japan for 14.4 MW Power Barge 106	PB0041213-MMAM2681 (PB2) VR- PB6-04-060	924,000.00	500.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I - VII	Nov. 8, 2005	2:00 PM	Director's Lounge, 2nd Floor Bldg. 1

10. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
THE BAC, MMSD - SECRETARIAT
Materials Management Department
Materials Management Services Division
Agham Rd. cor Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 921-3190, 921-3541 Loc. 5599 & 5477
mitrinanes@napocor.gov.ph
Fax No. 921-3190
http://www.napocor.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman, BAC-MMSD

(PDI - Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2005)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operation and Maintenance
Tel. No. : (02) 5206776; (02) 9814595/9814539/9814576/ 9814577/9814578 LOC. 4002; (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-11B

The National Transmission Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder requirements:

SCHEDULE	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	3BAT-05-210	PORTABLE POWER QUALITY AND DISTURBANCE ANALYZER INSTRUMENT	2 SETS	P 9,200,000.00
A2	3CAV-05-446	COLD GALVANIZING COMPOUND	182 QUARTZ	2,000,000.00
A3	3LAG-05-11694	HOTLINE TOOLS FOR 69KV T/L STRUCTURES	1 LOT	9,700,000.00
A4	3LAG-05-11697	ULTRAVIOLET CORONA IMAGER AND DATABASE SOFTWARE DOCUMENT SYSTEM	1 LOT	9,648,000.00
A5	3ASA-05-009	SURGE ARRESTER	6 UNITS	5,400,000.00
B1	PSMDN-05-136	MULTI-PRODUCT CALIBRATION SYSTEM	1 SET	7,800,000.00
		AC/DC KILOVOLTMETER	1 SET	1,000,000.00
B2	3PSMDN-05-144	OFFLINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	1 SET	2,280,000.00
B3	3PSMDN-05-154	CIRCUIT BREAKER/SWITCH ANALYZER	1 SET	4,500,000.00
B4	3PSMDS-05-096	CIRCUIT BREAKER ANALYZER SYSTEM	1 SET	5,500,000.00
B5	3PSMDS-05-104	FULLY AUTOMATED THREE PHASE TRANSFORMER TURNS RATIO METER	1 SET	2,000,000.00
B6	3PSMDS-05-115	THREE PHASE RELAY TEST SYSTEM WITH GPS	2 SETS	14,000,000.00
B7	3PSMDS-05-116	INSULATION DIAGNOSTICS SYSTEM	1 SET	4,500,000.00
B8	3PSMDS-05-117	AC/DC HIGH VOLTAGE TEST SET	1 SET	5,500,000.00
B9	3PSMDS-05-118	WATER CONTENT MEASURING TEST EQUIPMENT	1 SET	2,000,000.00
C1	3LAG-05-11821	POWER TRANSFORMER DIVERTER SWITCH	1 UNIT	6,985,000.00
C2	3LAG-05-11846	ON LINE TAP CHANGER FILTER SYSTEM	2 SETS	7,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed items for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities		Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents		Oct 27 up to a day before PB
2. Pre-bid Conference	A1-A5 B1-B9 C1-C2	November 3, 2005 9:00AM November 3, 2005 1:00PM November 9, 2005 9:00AM
3. Opening of Bids	A1-A5 B1-B9 C1-C2	November 18, 2005 November 21, 2005 November 22, 2005
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids at the OAVP Conference Room	A1-A5 B1-B9 C1-C2	November 18, 2005 8:30AM November 21, 2005 8:30AM November 22, 2005 8:30 AM

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule to the National Transmission Corporation Cashier. Complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

The National Transmission Corporation assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net.

(SGD.) **R. B. VERGARA**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2005)

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"To me, fair friend, you never can be old,
For as you were when first your eye I ey'd,
Such seems your beauty still...."
---W. Shakespeare

In Loving Memory
on the 100th Birthday Anniversary of

Remedios Sunico Rufino

"Meding"

(November 3, 1905 - January 29, 1996)

"Abuelita, your voice speaks to us still."
From Your Loved Ones,
Ditas (+) and Manny
Maria Paz and Manny
Marixi and Alex
Cary and Mary
Charlie and Chinit
Pixie and Eoin
And all your grandchildren,
great-grandchildren, relatives, and friends.

---

†

ARACELI RAMOS CRUZ

BORN: JANUARY 10, 1913
DIED: OCTOBER 31, 2005

"Give her eternal rest, O Lord, and may Your light shine on her forever."

Her husband **SANTIAGO F. CRUZ** (†), children: **MANUEL** (†) & **CRISTINA QUIMPO, EDDIE** & **LOURDES CRUZ, ERLINDA CRUZ, ERROL CRUZ**, grandchildren, great grandchildren & relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, South Wing (New Building), Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the 2:00 p.m. Mass on Friday, November 4, 2005

Col. Epifanio E. Segovia PAF (Ret.)

PMA Class '40

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 29, 2005 at the age of 90.

His bereaved wife Rose; children **Richard** (†) & **Pilar, Willy, Arthur** & **Armi, Jimmy, Susan** & **Abie**; grandchildren **Odin, Dino, Tessa, Genny Patricia, Carla, Tintin, AJ** & **Cassy**; great grandchildren, brothers, sisters, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence in Lipa City.

Cremation will be on Friday, November 4 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

The Officers and Directors
and the Secretariat Staff
of the ADBOARD

request all its members, friends and colleagues to say a prayer for the eternal repose of the soul of

Joan Manneth A. Lukban

of the ACRC
who was called to the Kingdom
of the Lord on October 31, 2005

May Eternal Light shine upon her.

LEONCIO JAO

of Sampaloc, Manila

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 31, 2005 at the age of 82.

His beloved wife **Bedia** (†); children **Susan, Gary** and **Carmen, Sally, Maggie**; grandchildren **Jennie, Joanne, Glenn Conrad, Caireen Gail, Jann Caitlin** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Chapel B-7, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 5, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque..

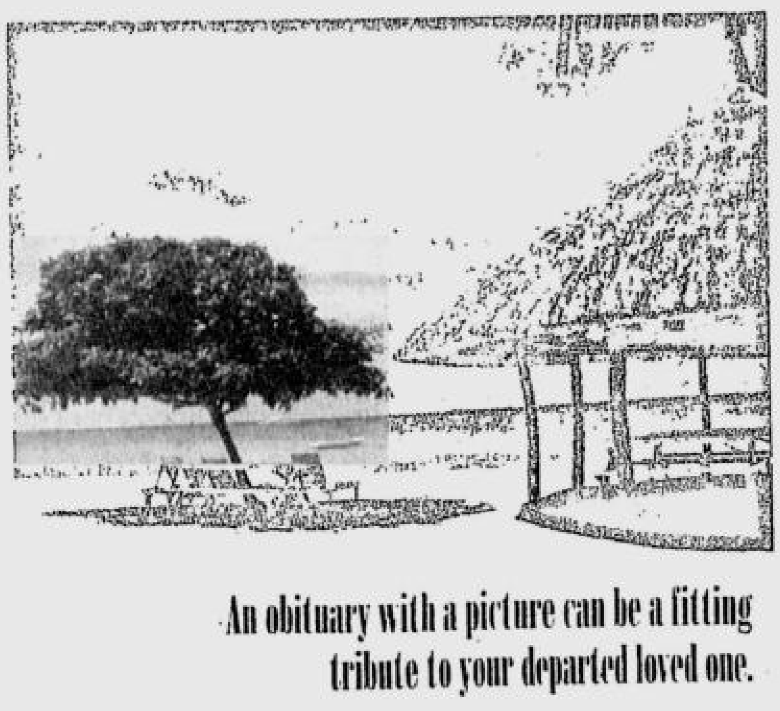
RODOLFO "DODIE" F. DAYAO

born: November 13, 1942 died: November 2, 2005

His bereaved wife, **Agnes Villaraza**; children, **Gilbert, Rodney & Aurora Reyes, Christina**; grandchildren, **Troy & Audrey**; siblings and spouses, **Imelda & Romeo Arañas**(+), **Edwina & Peter Yevoli, Hector Dayao & Editha Morabe, Estela & Gil Portes, Yolanda & Oliver Sanchez**; nephews, nieces and in-laws, **Connie, Boy, Argel** (+), & **Albert Villaraza** request for prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque. Interment will be at Everest Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City on November 5, 2005 after the 2:00 pm Mass.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6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Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ○ Copy of Death Certificate ● Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Our Beloved Tatay

BENJAMIN VACUAL DEL ROSARIO

of

DEL Rosario CUSTOM TAILORS

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 30, 2005 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife **Rosario (†)**; children **Mon** and **Fe**, **Noli** and **Viqui**, **Edward** and **Beth**, **Edith** and **Jun**; grandchildren **Missy, Mia, Nathan** and **Anna, Lean**; brothers **Felipe (†)** and **Augurio**; sisters **Miguela Rosa** and **Rafaela**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., New Manila, Quezon City.**

Interment will take place on **Saturday, November 5, 2005** at **Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.**

ARCH. ERWIN FABRICANTE LIM

(March 2, 1957 – October 30, 2005)

beloved husband of **Marilou Dueñas**
beloved son of **Purification F. Lim** and **Arch. PaulinoT. Lim** (+)

We, his wife **Marilou,** his children **Trizia Marrie** and **Joshua Zoe**, his mother **Puring**, his brothers, sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces are truly grateful for the time our Lord has shared him with us.

All those too, who, in one way or another have been blessed to have shared in his full life, request the readers to join us in praying for the eternal rest of his soul.

His body lies in state at
the St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri,
Magallanes, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, the 5th of November after the 8:00 am Mass in Magallanes.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
10th Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 1, Butuan City

MARIA CAROL V. JANER-YASUMURO, Petitioner,
Versus-
TERUO YASUMURO, Respondent
X------------------------------------X

SP. PROC. NO. 2490
For:
DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

ORDER
(Summons for Publication)

This is a petition for declaration of absolute nullity of marriage/ annulment of married filed on September 28, 2005.

The principal ground relied on by the herein petitioner is that the petitioner was sweet-talked by the respondent into marrying him. The petitioner in this case prays to the Court for a declaration that:

The marriage between the parties be nullified/declared a nullity for the reasons cited in the petition.

In the Order of the Court dated October 18, 2005, the Court granted the motion of the petitioner to effect service of summons on respondent by publication.

Wherefore, petitioner is ordered to cause the publication of this Summons once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Respondent Teruo Yasumuro is hereby ordered to answer the herein Petition within sixty (60) days from the last date of publication.

SO ORDERED.
Butuan City, Philippines, October 18, 2005.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO S. CASALS
Judge

(PDI-Nov. 3 & 10, 2005)

National Hospice and Palliative Care Week

NOV. 7-13 IS declared as National Hospice and Palliative Care Week under Presidential Proclamation No. 936. This is in recognition of the services provided by various hospice and palliative care institutions, as well as to increase awareness on the significance of creating a healthy society.

Hospice—Philippines, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Council of the Philippines, was organized in December 2003, spearheaded by the Philippine Cancer Society and was launched on Feb. 17, 2004 as an organization uniting and coordinating the various hospice and palliative care institutions in the Philippines.

Hospice—Philippines, which is composed of 23 hospital and community-based hospices nationwide, is committed to ensuring the best quality of life for terminally ill patients and their families.

This month, the Philippine Cancer Society together with Hospice—Philippines will hold a Hospice Fun Walk with the theme Hospice for Quality of Life. the fun walk will start at 5:30 am along Kalaw St. cor Roxas Blvd., Manila. A thanksgiving Mass and a short program will follow.

For more information about the National Hospice and Palliative Care Week, please call the Philippine Cancer hotline at 734-2131 or call Dr. Agnes Bausa at 524-6277 or email agnesbausa@yahoo.com or info@hospice.org.ph

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ALBAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ALECO invites qualified contractors to bid for the **supply, installation and commissioning of a 10 MVA Substation** inclusive of a three years deffered payment scheme. Eligibility and bidding documents may be secured from ALECO office on **November 7 to 10, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 10,000.00.

Eligibility requirements must be submitted on or before **November 10, 2005**. Previous bidders shall submit additional documents only for pre-qualification. Pre-qualification of bidders will be on **November 12, 2005** at ALECO Boardroom.

Site inspection is on **November 15, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.** All prospective bidders shall be required to attend site inspection and shall be issued Certificate of Inspection for eligibility to bid. For purpose of clarifying some issues, a pre-bid conference will be on **November 15, 2005** at 2:00 p.m. at ALECO Boardroom. Previous participants to the unsuccessful bidding process last **October 5, 2005** may or may not attend the site inspection but are required to attend the pre-bid conference.

Sealed bids shall be received by **ALECO on or before 2:00 p.m. November 22, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

ALECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to ALECO.

(Sgd.) **JOSE MISAEL B. MORALEDA**
Chairman, Technical PBAC - ALECO

(PDI - Nov. 2 & 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
San Francisco, Agusan del Sur

NOTICE OF COVERAGE AND FIELD INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to Section 7 of R.A. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, landowners, listed below with their landholdings and location are hereby notified that their landholdings are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

LANDOWNER	LOCATION	TITLE NO.	LOT NO.	AREA	DATE OF OCULAR INSPECTION
1. Esperanza Forest Developers, Incorporated	Mabuhay, Prosperidad	P-9818	SWO-10-000166	864.4925	12/5-6/05
TOTAL				864.4925	

In this connection may we invite the landowners or their authorized representatives to a field investigation to be conducted on the date indicated herein. During the investigation, landholders may choose or pinpoint their retained area in accordance with Section 6 of R.A. 6657, which area should be more or less contiguous. Failure to attend said meeting or to choose retained area will mean that the office is given the discretion to identify the same.

Landowners are also advised to bring Statement of Production and Net Income on the said landholdings to be used as input in the determination of the land value.

Under Executive Order No. 405, dated 14 June 1990, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) to determine the land value of the said properties being acquired pursuant to Section 17 of R.A. 6657. As soon as we receive the Memorandum of Valuation from LBP, we shall advise the landowners of the computed land value of the properties.

(Sgd.) **MARINO M. GAYRAMON**
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

(PDI--Nov. 3, 2005)

National Power Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Imported Steaming Coal to Sual and Pagbilao CFTPP Batch I, CY2006

1. The National Power Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above supply
2. It intends to apply the sum as shown below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), inclusive of maximum loading tolerance:

Batch I Schedule-Plant	Volume, MT	Approved Budget for the Contract Inclusive of Maximum Loading Tolerance, Php	Bidding Date, Venue and Time
1A - SCFTPP (Spot/Regular)	5x65,000 +/-7%	1,324,232,000.00	Dec 5, 2005, Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
1B - SCFTPP (3-Yrs. Long Term)	4x65,000 +/-7%/yr.	1,059,385,600.00 (1st Yr.)	Dec. 5, 2005, Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
2A - PCFTPP (Spot/Performance)	5x65,000 +/-10%	1,201,200,000.00	Dec. 6, 2005, Pahiyas - 9:30 AM
2B - PCFTPP (Spot/Blending Low Sulfur)	5x65,000 +/-10%	1,201,200,000.00	Dec. 6, 2005, Pahiyas - 9:30 AM

Note: This Batch I, Schedule cancels the previous invitation for the same supply published on October 12 & October 15, 2005.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of RA 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, Organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from BCSD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P20,000.00 per mine source per schedule, either in cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. Pre-Bid Conference shall be on Nov. 22, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at Pahiyas Function Room, NPC, Diliman, q.c.
6. Bidders are encouraged to submit Eligibility Documents on or before Nov. 25, 2005 for evaluation and issuance of Class A Certification
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at designated venue on the bidding dates. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount stated in the Tender Document. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders. Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned
9. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD), NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City at Tel. No. 922-1622 or visit NPC (www.napocor.gov.ph) and DBM (www.procurementservice.net com) websites

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
Sr. Vice President and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct 27 & Nov 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila
COMMITTEE ON BIDS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court through the Committee on Bids invites authorized distributors/dealers of branded Personal Computers to pre-qualify and participate to bid for the following:

Name of Project	Approved Budget	Source of Funding
Lot 1. For Supreme Court and Lower Courts		
A. 750 units - Personal Computers B. 50 units - Dot Matrix Printer (136 cols.) C. 600 units - Dot Matrix Printer (80 cols.) D. 51 units - Laser Printer (high-end) E. 750 units - Automatic Voltage Regulator	P 73,459,100.00	Judiciary Development Fund
Lot 2. For the Philippine Judicial Academy		
A. 35 units - Personal Computers B. 35 units - Laser Printers (low-end) C. 35 units - Automatic Voltage Regulators	P 2,985,675.00	SC PHILJA PMC Trust Fund
Lot 3. For Supreme Court (eNGAS)		
A. 1 unit - Blade Server B. 3 units - Tower Server C. 19 units - UPS (for workstations) D. 3 units - UPS (for tower servers) E. 19 sets - Software Licenses	P 2,130,000.00	Judiciary Development Fund

PERIOD OF DELIVERY:
For Lots 1 and 2 - Sixty (60) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order
For Lot 3 - Thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

The pre-bid conference will be held on:
Date : **11 November 2005, Friday**
Venue : Conference Room 1, (Mezzanine Floor), Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila
Time : 1:00 PM (for LOT 1) • 2:00 PM (for LOT 2) • 3:00 PM (for LOT 3)

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS**

On the bidding, the legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative, and the bids will be opened, thereafter, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, to be held on:
Date **25 November 2005, Friday**
Venue Conference Room 1, (Mezzanine Floor), Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila
Time 10:00 AM (for LOT 1) • 1:00 PM (for LOT 2) • 2:00 PM (for LOT 3)

Prospective bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Interested bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from **The Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, 3rd Floor Annex Building, Supreme Court**, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for LOT 1, Two Thousand Pesos ((P2,000.00) for LOT 2 and Two thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for LOT 3**, prior to the conduct of pre-bid conference. For additional information, the bidders may contact the Secretary, Atty. Ennar R.C. Cabanilla at telefax no. 5251270 or Ms. Norma C. Josue at tel. no. 5266419.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids, 2) waive any defects or informalities therein, 3) or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

24 October 2005

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2005)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-296	200 units Dot Matrix Printers	P 6,300,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-312	256 units Document Scanner with Bundled Software and PC	26,332,160.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on November 23, 2005 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon **payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 and P3,000.00 for ITB Nos. 2005-296 and 2005-312, respectively.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **November 11, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI--Nov. 3 & 10, 2005)

BUSINESS

Benguet eyes several mine sites

By Christine A. Gaylican

BENGUET CORP. HAS SEVERAL new mineral projects in the pipeline, improving the prospects of the 100-year-old mining company.

The biggest of the lot is the Kingking Copper-Gold Prospect in Compostela Valley in Davao, according to Edgar Tabanda, vice president of Benguet Corp., the biggest gold mining company in the country and the sixteenth largest in the world.

Aside from the Kingking project, the mining firm is also eyeing the Pantingan Gold prospect in Bataan, and the Ampucao prospect in Itogon, Benguet, Tabanda said in a report.

The firm has an existing gold project near the Benguet site—the Acupan mine—which it shares with small scale miners.

The mining firm also has limestone prospects in Tuba town near Baguio City, Sta. Cruz in Masinloc, Zambales, and in Alaminos and Gemcor, both in Pangasinan.

"Benguet Corp. has a valid quarry permit for the prospects," Tabanda said in a report. "The company is presently supplying crushed limestone to the National Power Corporation's coal-fired Sual power plant in Sual, Pangasinan."

The mining company also holds a mineral production sharing agreement in Masinloc, Zambales for a refractory chromite and aggregates prospects. This is aside from the Sta. Cruz nickel laterite prospect also in Pangasinan.

Benguet Corp. president Benjamin Philip Romualdez said the mining firm has pending FTAA (financial and technical assistance agreement) applications for possible mineral areas in Kalinga Apayao and in Ilocos Norte.

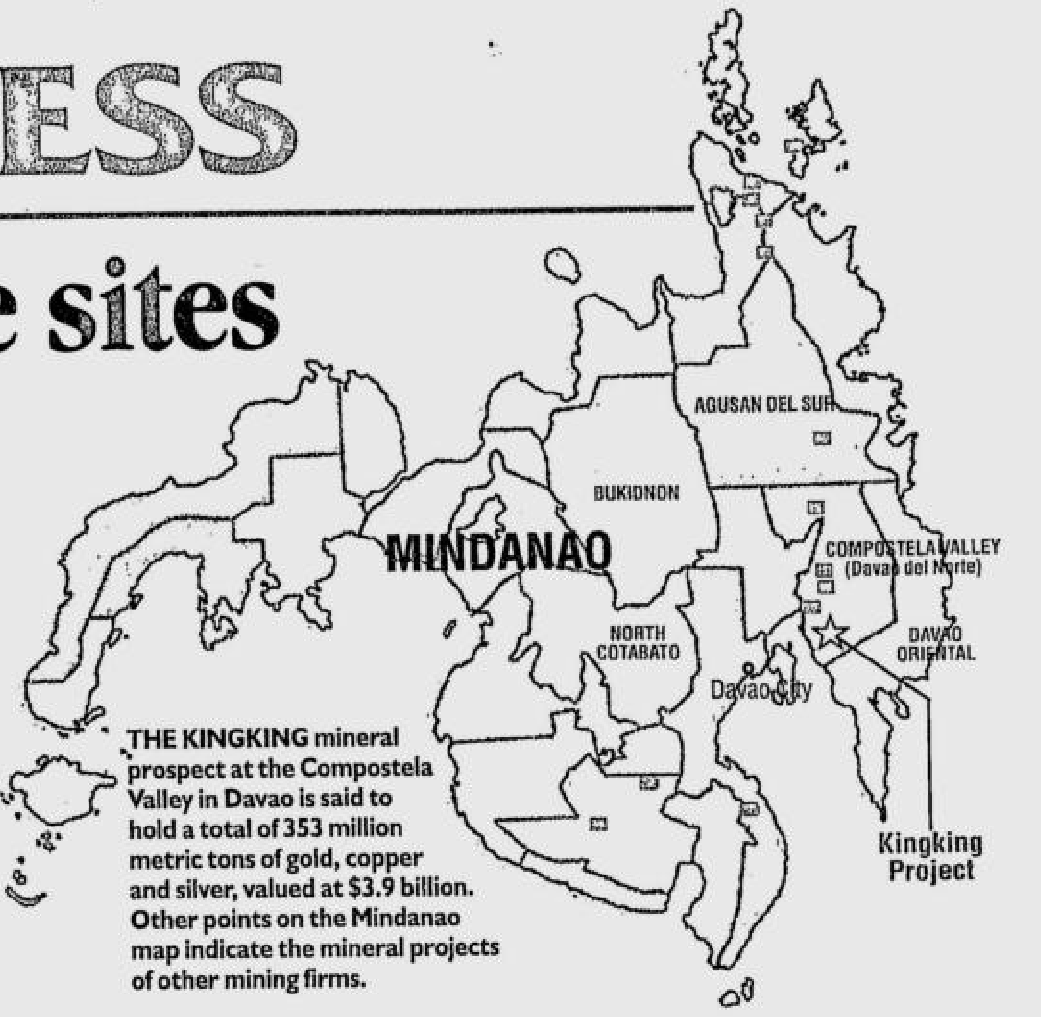
Earlier, the company said it would raise some $500 million to begin groundwork for its Kingking copper-gold project in Compostela Valley, Davao next year—touted to be its biggest project to date.

Romualdez said the Kingking project has a total mineral deposit of 353 million metric tons of gold, copper and silver valued at $3.9 billion.

It has an estimated daily production rate of 70,000 MT, which could last for around 13 years.

Romualdez said funding would be acquired partly from banks, as well as from fresh equity to be infused by current and new partners.

In developing the Kingking prospect, Benguet Corp. has selected Citicorp as its financial adviser.



THE KINGKING mineral prospect at the Compostela Valley in Davao is said to hold a total of 353 million metric tons of gold, copper and silver, valued at $3.9 billion. Other points on the Mindanao map indicate the mineral projects of other mining firms.

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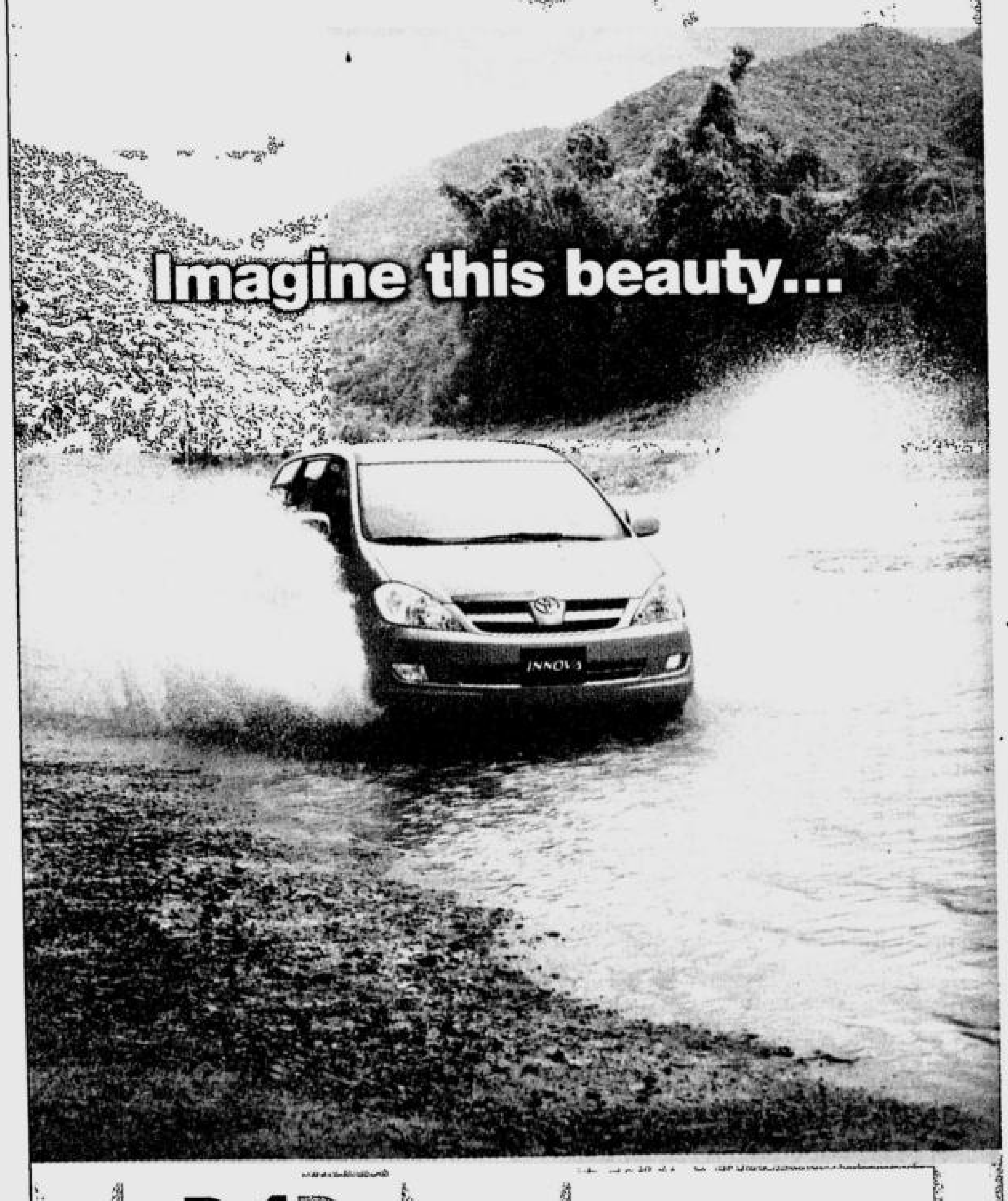
A better way forward
MICHELIN

NORTH M MLA ACHIEVER'S SALES, Boni Mandaluyong 533-9127; BANAUE CAR CARE Banaue QC 712-0988, EXCELLENT MKTG Banaue, QC 743-8847 to 51; WEST TYRE West Ave. 920-6247, SOUTH MMLA E.M. TIRE PLUS Muntinlupa 861-4328; MINERVA TYRE Filinvest Alabang 809-3592; MINERVA TYRE Global City 889-7263; MINERVA SALES Biñan Laguna (049)411-1551; MINERVA TIREHAUS Calamba Laguna (049) 545-4493; PRICESMART Global City 888-0433; ROADSTAR Makati 897-2905; ROADSTAR Alabang Town Ctr 842-2859; ROADSTAR Global City 816-0585; NORTHEAST LUZON AG COMBE Cabanatuan (044)463-2389; GUZMAN TIRE Cabanatuan (044)463-0984; LP TYREX Isabela, (078)622-3516; SANTIAGO AUTO SUPPLY Isabela, (078) 682-8188; NORTH WEST LUZON MJ CARAG TRDG Laoag Ilocos Norte (077)770-4588, STARMAN TIRE Pangasinan (075)568-2166; TYRE VALLEY Baguio (074)422-2509; SOUTH LUZON GLORY'S COMET Batangas (043)402-1071; GLORY'S COMET Laguna (049)838-0209; MJR SALES Batangas (043)727-4879; NEW LIFE TIRE Batangas City (043)921-1634, RUBBERPOINT TIRE Lipa City (043)756-2827; WHEELS ETC. Lucena (042)660-4488; BICOL IP CAR SERVICE Tacloban City (053)321-5571; JRB CALIBRATION Legaspi City (052)480-7617; N. DELA CRUZ TIRE Sorsogon City, (056)211-4684; STO. CRISTO MKTG Camarines Norte, (054)585-2045; EASTERN VISAYAS CAR NETWORKS Cebu City (032)234-1063; NORTH TREND Cebu City, (032)232-9893; TAGBILARAN CITY TIRE Bohol (038)441-4621; TRI-J MKTG Cebu City, (032)418-8881; WESTERN VISAYAS BUENVIAJE TIRE Ilo-Ilo City (033)335-0126; NORTH MINDANAO FCN MKTG Cagayan de Oro (088)856-8460; PHILTYRES Cagayan de Oro (08822)727-699, SOUTH MINDANAO EXPRESS LUBE Davao City (082)301-0848, MEGAWHEELS Davao City (082)297-2970; PHILTYRES Davao City (082)221-8304

GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT

Passion



so VERSATILE.

INNOVA

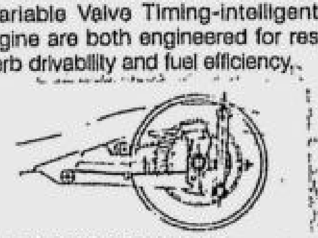
A Beautiful [R]evolution

Versatility. This is second nature to the Innova. Take it to major thoroughfares, mud trails, or the metropolis. It would be equally responsive on all road conditions. After all, the double wishbone front suspension and the 4-link, coil spring, rear suspension can endure tough trips yet offer a smoother, more comfortable ride.

Its bigger cabin space allows more freedom of movement. Flexible seat arrangement creates endless storage possibilities. Plus, luxurious, well-appointed trimmings are generously provided inside and out. You get a vehicle that's built for the roads of the world, versatile in every way.

D-4D VVT-i

The latest 2.5L Common-Rail diesel engine and the 2.0L Variable Valve Timing-intelligent (VVT-i) gasoline engine are both engineered for responsive power, superb drivability and fuel efficiency.



The 4-link, coil spring, rear suspension is similar to luxury off-roaders and offers a smoother, more comfortable ride.

TOP Platform

Built for the roads of the world and shared by all IMV models, the Toyota Outstanding Performance (TOP) Platform is a tough ensemble of the highly rigid frame, independent front suspension and a 4-link rear suspension.

Its wide and spacious interiors are heightened by soft curves, plus highly luxurious materials. Soft seats, numerous seating options make it cozier still.

TOYOTA

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LIFESTYLE

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MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◎ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◎ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◎ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◎ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

DUNKIN' DONUTS
It's Dunkin' time!
Get 1 FREE
when you buy a regular dozen Dunkin' Donuts
Collect all 6
Promo period is from October 22 to November 15, 2005
See posters for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 8017, Series of 2005.
Cuckoo Clock
Clip Watch

Beer, sauerbraten and eggs on the side

MANDARIN Oriental's Oktoberfest (far left) and Dennis Hipolito's "Endless Possibilities"

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

HOW DID I GET PAST THE month of October?

From the mystery of the *kare-kare* solved by Dr. Ricky Soler to the Siam Cigar Society's visit that led to the discovery of Jose Sotto's restaurant La Vigne, to the introduction of the Philippine National Culinary Team during World Chef's Day at Humphrey Navarro's P45, to the delightful Olive Oil Ice Cream with Caramelized French Toast, Tomatoes and Olives by El Cirkulo's J. Gamboa, to the launching of Dennis Hipolito's book "Endless Possibilities in Baking," a baker's must-have (0917-5165878)—October was perhaps the most action-packed month in 2005.

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end, yet no goodbyes could be said to sweet October before talking about Mandarin Oriental's Oktoberfest, which was held in Manila at the NBC Tent.

Oct. 8 was the closest thing to being in Munich, with 'Oompapa' music and traditional German buffet

German festival

Oktoberfest began in 1810 in Munich as a wedding reception thrown by King Maximillian of Bavaria to celebrate the wedding of his son, Prince Ludwig (Ludwig I, King of Bavaria) to Princess Therese of Sachsen-Hildburghausen. A celebration filled with merriment, beer drinking and horse races in a *wiese* (meadow), it was so successful King Maximillian decided to hold one every year in the same *wiese*, naming it Theresienwiese, after Ludwig's bride.

Today, the fest commences with a morning parade of colorful horse-drawn *bierwagens* that represent major *brauereien* (breweries) in Munich. Each *brauereien* sets up a *festhallen* (huge beer tent) for the festival. At noon of opening day, the bürgermeister (mayor) enters a *festhallen*, then cannons are fired 12 times, to which the bürgermeister taps the first keg, fills his *masskrüge* (one-liter beer mug) with beer and says to the crowd, "*Ozapft is!*" The keg is tapped, setting Oktoberfest in motion.

The *blasorchester* (brass bands) begin to play *trinklieder* (drinking songs) while the *kellnerinnen* (waitresses) bring out the beer. Contests for the strongest *kellnerinnen* are held to see who can carry the most *masskrüge*. Other competitions include beer drinking and *würstchen* (sausage)-eating. It is also the time of year when the biggest amounts of Gebratene Ochsen (roasted oxen), Hähnchen (rotisserie chicken), Steckerlfisch (fish on a stick), Bratwurst, and Brezeln are consumed.

Bier (beer) plays an important role in the festival. Munich breweries concoct a special beer for the fest called *wiesenbier* (meadow beer). There is even a non-alcoholic *kinderbier*, made out of malt, for children.

Oktoberfest is 16 days of drinking, eating, singing and dancing which used to begin in October. But in 1880, due to the weather condition of the month, the dates were changed. It now commences on *Samstag* (Saturday) in September and ends the first *Sonntag* (Sunday) in October.

The evening of Oct. 8 was the closest we could ever get to being in Munich. "Oompapa" music was played by the Bavarian Sound Express, flown in from Munich. And the food!—a bountiful traditional German buffet laid out by a good friend, executive chef Thomas Wenger, an extensive German gustatory feast of Spannferkel (suckling pig in dark beer sauce), Sauerbraten (braised beef in sweet and sour sauce), Leberkaas (meat loaf on creamed spinach), Spit Haendl (herb-marinated roast chicken), roast pork knuckle with sauerkraut, and a variety of grilled and boiled sausages, salads, desserts, pretzels, heart-shaped gingerbreads, schnapps and cigars.

It was splendid! Best part was that the proceeds of the Mandarin's Oktoberfest went to the scholarship fund of the German School Manila Foundation.

More on eggs

- **Boiled eggs**—Bring water to a boil, make sure there's enough water to completely submerge the egg. Start putting eggs into boiling water once it's on running boil and start timing. For soft: 3 to 5 minutes, medium: 7 to 8 minutes, hard: 10-12 minutes
- **Omelets**—It is best to make small omelets over one large. They end up fluffier, lighter and a lot easier to handle. Add 2 tsp of water to your eggs mixture as water creates steam making a lighter omelet. Use pans that are shallow, thick and the size proportionate to the number of eggs. An 8-egg omelet is the largest I would go on a 10-12-inch pan, a 3-egg, on an 8-inch, the smallest. Have all your ingredients ready as the process must be done quickly. Temperature is another key to success. Test your pan for readiness by splashing a few drops of water. If they roll, instead of boil and go up in steam, the pan is ready.

To be continued...

Kitchen Rescue, Vol. 1, excerpts from the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Then Some, will be out soon. The book is a compilation of my columns since its inception! For reservations, call 6474744.

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

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PM Roasted Pork
10 Thu PM Crystal Shrimp Balls, Stir Fried Shrimp Balls with Vegetable, Salted Fish Fried Rice, Fish Head in Noodles
11 Fri PM H.K. Style Siopao
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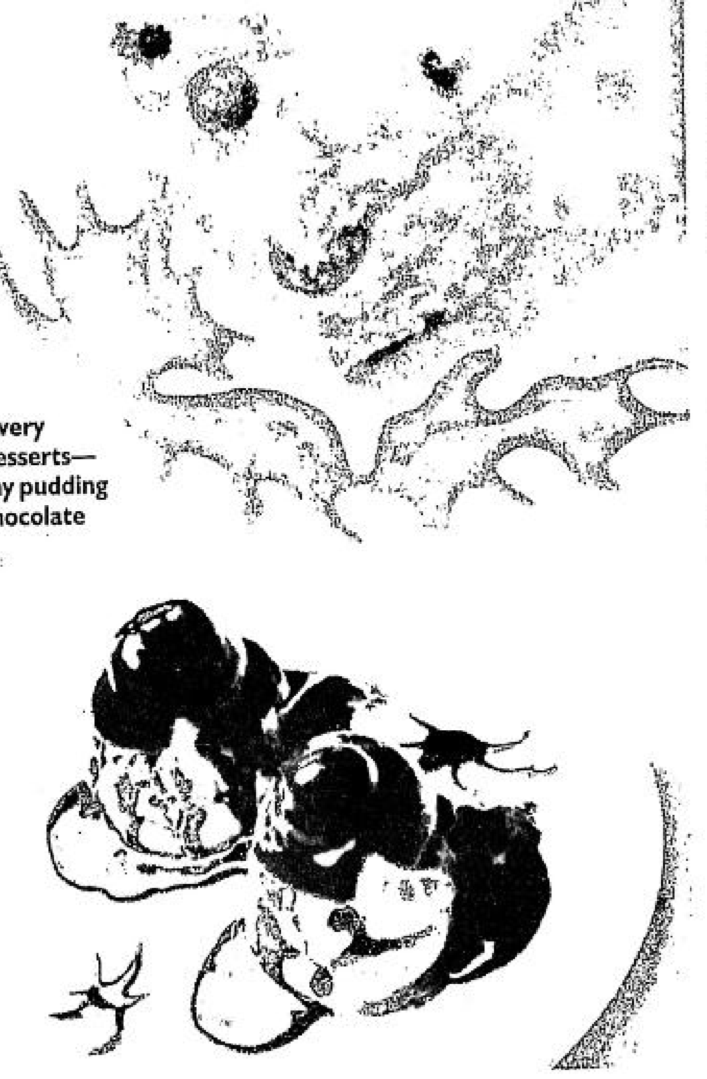
Where food is art

GAUDÍ, THE RESTAURANT NAMED AFTER architect Antoni Gaudi, innovative leader of the Spanish Art Nouveau movement in his lifetime, has a new location.

The restaurant that specializes in Spanish cuisine is now on the 4th floor of Greenbelt 3 offering diners a breathtaking view of the park below and the Makati business district skyline.

Executive chef Alexandra Cacho, trained by one of Spain's most prominent chefs, Ignacio Muguruza, introduces diners to modern Spanish cuisine from Spain's diverse regions, complemented by a wide variety of wines and *cavas*.

Gaudi is located at 4/L Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 7572710 and 7572711, or e-mail gaudi@i-manila.com.ph.



TWO very rich desserts—creamy pudding and chocolate eclair

A SALAD of asparagus spears, green olives, lettuce, tomatoes and corn

ROASTED lamb with mint sauce and veggies

A volcanic kind of cooking

GRILL ASIA IN THOMPSON SQUARE BUILDing on Tomas Morato, Quezon City, has more than 55 grilled dishes on its menu.

But grilling at the year-old restaurant is done differently. Roasting is done over volcanic rock and other heat sources. Various dipping sauces and glazes are then added to dishes for more varied flavors.

Kervin Valero, Grill Asia owner, says grilling is healthier than deep-frying and other more popular forms of food preparation.

Among Grill Asia's popular dishes are Manila's Thrilla, barbecued pork marinated in garlic, sugar and vinegar; salpicao, grilled, not pan-fried, skewered beef served with garlic-spiked marinade.

Grill Asia has fresh beef, pork and chicken meat and seafood delivered almost daily. To keep seafood fresh, shrimps and fish are given an "ice bath" before freezing.

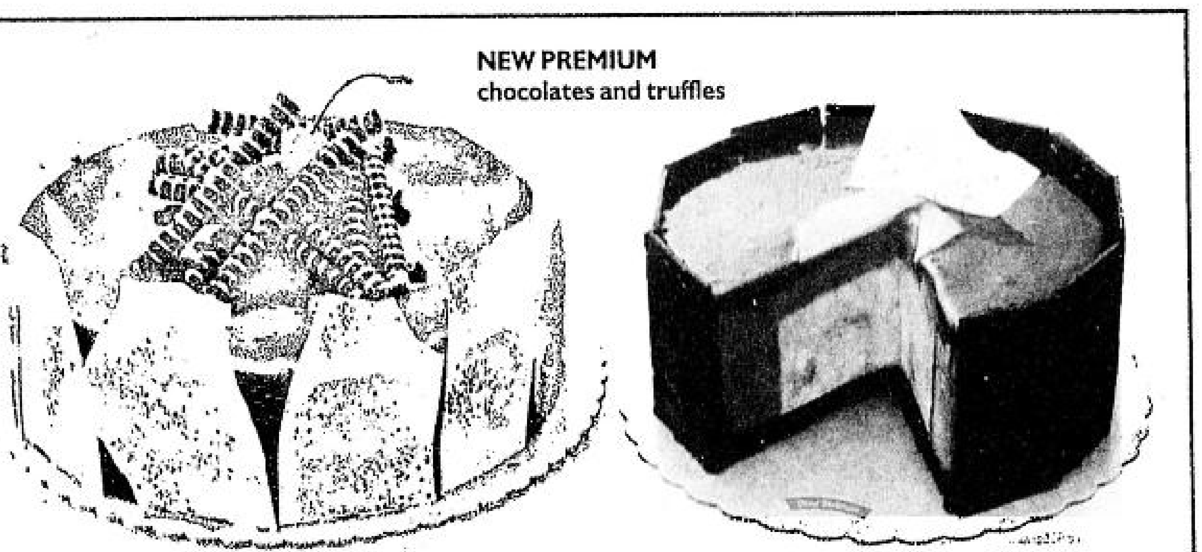
Grilled meat is kept moist by skewering it with vegetables with high-moisture content. Valero recommends inserting onions, bell pepper and lemon between meat and seafood.

When grilling, meat is constantly brushed with its marinade and with stock.

The use of lava rock and flame grill, keeps the cooking heat constant. The meat also does not get sooty.

Grill Asia caters for special occasions. It can change the décor of its interiors to suit the special occasion. Call 4112742.

THE SECRET to great grilled food is enveloping the meat in moisture by constant basting and by skewering meats with veggies with high water content.



NEW PREMIUM chocolates and truffles

Month-long choco festival launched

RED RIBBON BAKESHOP launched its month-long "Chocolate Festival" by unveiling a 10-foot chocolate fountain, the tallest so far in the country, at Robinsons Place Manila.

People queued to dip marshmallows into the liquid chocolate flowing from the multi-tiered fountain from the Embassy of Chocolate-Tulip.

During the event, Red Ribbon Bakeshop presented its new premium chocolate cakes and truffles specially created for the festival. They are available until Nov. 15 in selected Red Ribbon stores.

The special items are Choco Orange Truffle Cake, Chocolate Mango Mousse, Twin Chocolate Mousse, Chocolate Layer Cake, Dark Chocolate Truffle and White Chocolate Truffle.

Guest performer was musician Toti Fuentes. Exciting prizes were given away in various games. Kids were treated to free face painting and balloons.

Jorge Concepcion, Red Ribbon Bakeshop's executive vice-president and general manager, said the new creations were quite different from existing products. They included flour-less cakes and were gluten free.

Concepcion and Dieter Speer of the Embassy of Chocolate led the formal launching. The festival was presented by Red Ribbon and The Embassy of Chocolate, in cooperation with Robinsons Place Manila.

Products of the Embassy of Chocolate are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Link Import Export Enterprise, Inc.

The new chocolate creations are available at Red Ribbon Bakeshops at Robinsons Ermita, Binondo, Glorietta, Retiro, Jupiter, Ayala Parksquare II, Amber-Shaw Blvd., SM Southmall, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, Timog-Quezon Avenue, SM North Edsa, Congressional, Commonwealth, SM Fairview, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Katipunan, Libis and Missouri.

GUESTS enjoyed dipping marshmallows into the giant chocolate fountain during the launch of Red Ribbon's "Chocolate Festival."

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Count calories by reading the menu

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

NED Hourani, Hi-Lo consultant

TASTE AND APPEARANCE used to be the main considerations in most people's choice of food. Lately, however, more and more people are choosing meals with health and nourishment in mind.

The good news is, there are now restaurants that offer healthier menu options.

Hi-Lo Café at the third level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall (next to Bon Appetit) is the latest to offer a good selection of fresh food and drinks that are low in fat, low in salt, low in sugar, yet high in fiber, and providing essential carbohydrates for energy from natural sources.

Hi-Lo (tel. 6336973) does not promote any fad diets. Its goal is simple: Aim for a well-balanced diet.

"No food contains every essential nutrient in correct proportions and no single pill or supplement can compensate for a poor diet," says Ned Hourani, a fitness trainer and consultant to Hi-Lo. "Eating a well-balanced meal composed of a variety of foods is the healthiest way to meet normal nutrient requirements of our body."

Healthy choices

Hi-Lo—which stands for high in nutrition, energy and spirits, and low in fat, sodium (salt), sugar and calorie—is being run and operated by Rustan's Food Service Division, the same group behind Bon Appetit chain, Yum Yum Tree Coffee Shop and Snackyard and Char-Q Japanese Grill. The group is led by Margarita Lopez-de Jesus.

Hi-Lo offers the right selection of healthy foods. Its menu even lists nutritional facts and figures so the calorie-conscious may work out the right combination of foods for a balanced meal.

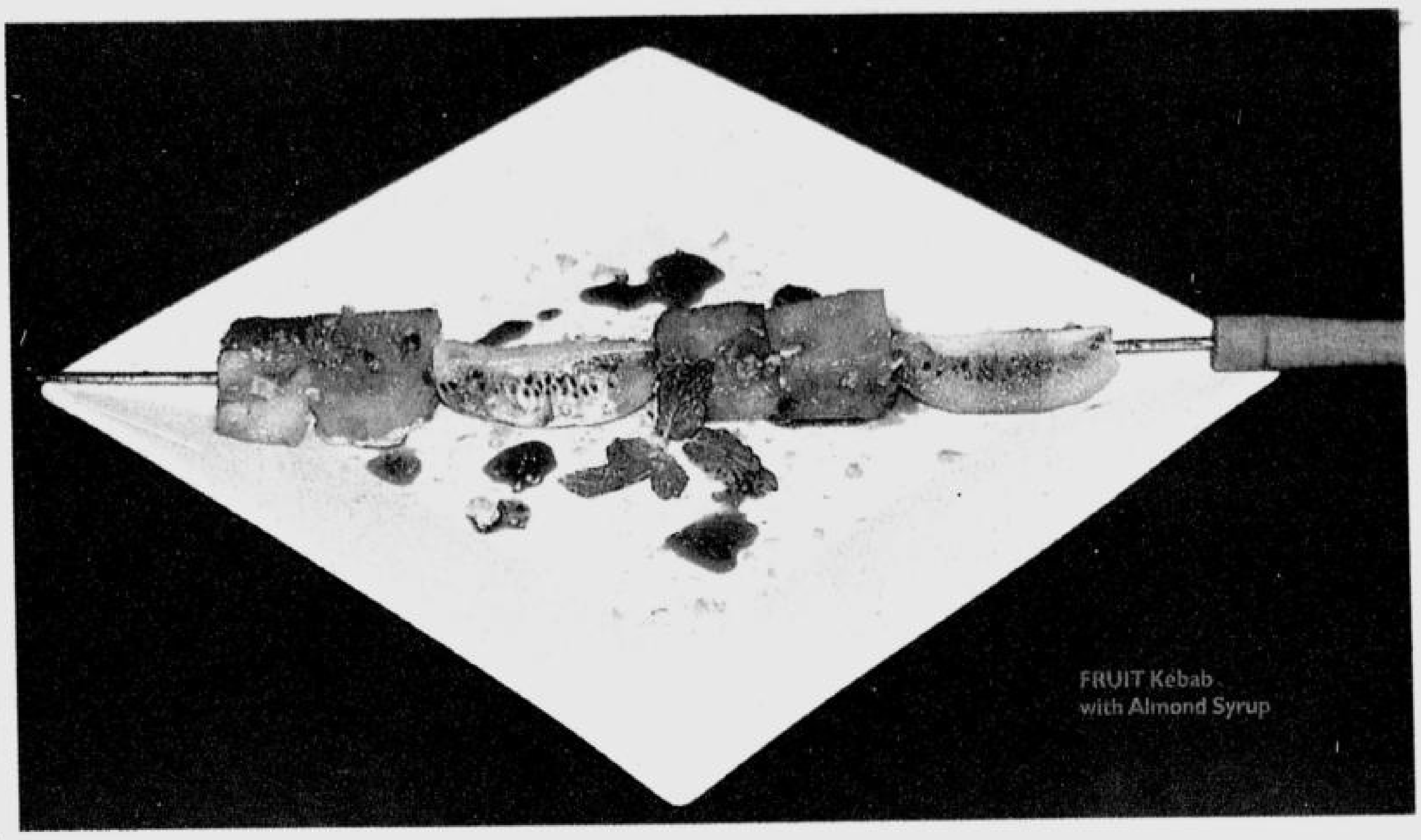
Dishes at Hi-Lo are baked, poached, grilled, broiled, stir-fried or steamed. Never fried. Egg whites, natural sweeteners like honey and muscovado or raw sugar, whole-wheat and multigrain, extra-virgin olive oil, organic foods, lean meat, poultry and seafood and nonfat or skim milk are the favored ingredients.

Hi-Lo does not use aspartame and other artificial sweeteners, white flour, saturated cooking oil, monosodium glutamate, whole or full cream milk and whipped cream.

In a typical restaurant, a single serving probably provides calories equivalent to at least two meals. Portion sizes are often double or triple what a person would normally eat.

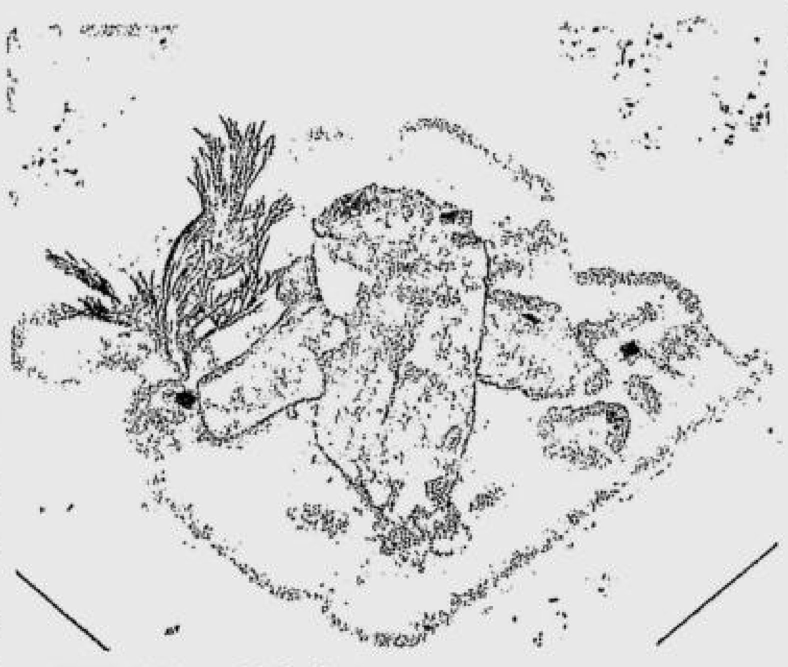
But at Hi-Lo food portions are adjusted so that one does not have too much of something. It allows the diner to try a variety of dishes without exceeding the recommended calorie intake per meal.

"We've gotten used to eating like a horse," quips Hourani. "Portion control is important. Moderation is key. We encourage diners to order more items on the menu instead of getting just one dish that will be high in calories."



FRUIT Kebab with Almond Syrup

The new Hi-Lo Café does not only serve health foods but has put each dish's nutritional information in print



GRILLED Chicken with Apricots

For starters, diners can choose from a wide range of soups and salads—the pumpkin and cauliflower soup and Vietnamese spinach salad are must-tries.

For the main course, some of the recommended items are grilled shrimp, turkey or lamb kebabs marinated in low-fat yogurt complemented with either brown or red rice.

Gourmet dishes like ostrich salpicao, ostrich beefsteak, and beef tenderloin with herb crust and bleu cheese all cooked in plant-based oils and flavored with natural herbs and spices are also gaining popularity among the regulars.

For sweet endings, it may be a toss-up between fruit kebab (fresh papaya, pineapple and kiwi fruit slices all skewered, grilled and marinated in syrup) and the low-calorie Spanish flan, among others.

Fresh fruit juice combinations mixed with yoghurt or soya milk or taken with either honey or syrup are available at the Hi-Lo Juice Bar.

For those who prefer light meals or who only want a snack, you can try a variety of pizza, pasta and sandwiches.

To try a little of everything the place has to offer, there is the Hi-Lo Set Meal with a total of only 550 calories from appetizer to dessert.

Vitamin-packed drinks are aplenty as well. They include watermelon, cantaloupe, kiwi, strawberry, *dalandan*, carrot and apple. The most popular is the ESL (Eduardo S. Lopez) Juice, an energy drink combining celery, cucumber, green apple, green bell pepper and green *ampalaya*. This has been the power drink of Margarita Lopez-de Jesus' father, and his own concoction.

"We want to encourage everyone to enjoy life and enjoy eating. It is all about choosing the right food and in the right amounts," says Hourani.

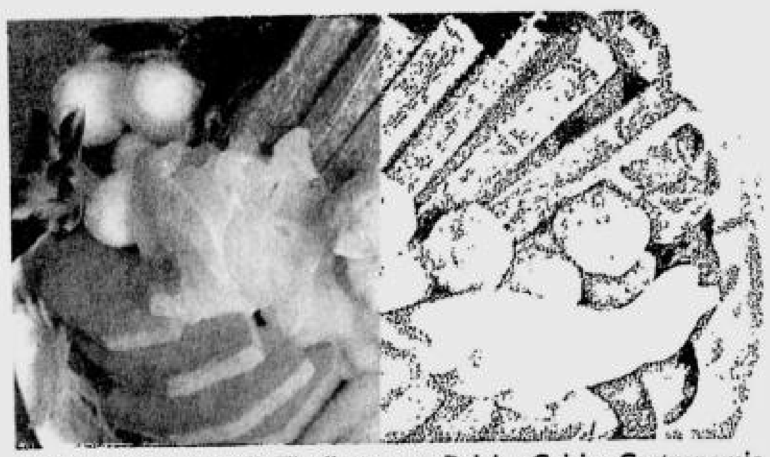
Belgian specialties showcase

DINING OUT

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA's Red offers a Thanksgiving feast on Nov. 24. Featured are Caesar Salad, Roast Turkey, Corn Bread, Roasted Pumpkin, Glazed Chestnut, Winter Vegetable, Valrhona Chocolate Cake and Chilled Strawberry Soup. Call 8138888.

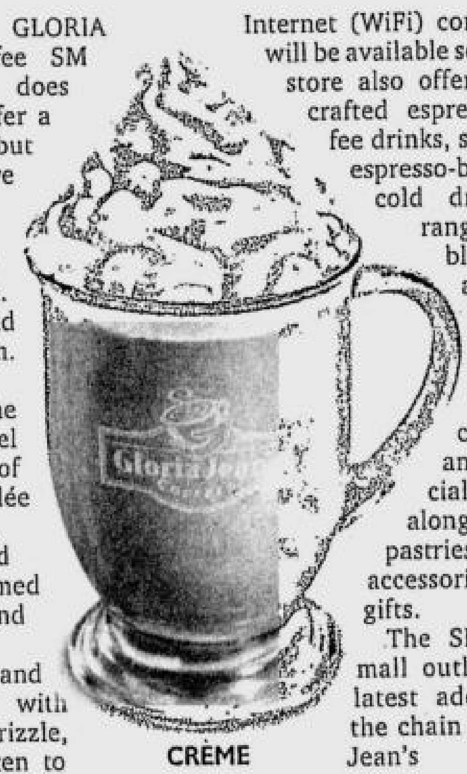
THE PENINSULA MANILA's Spices Restaurant features an array of vegetarian and non-vegetarian *thali* meals on Nov. 11-27. The Lobby's Chocolate Buffet will be held Nov. 11-Dec. 17. Call 8872888.

HOLIDAY INN Galleria Manila's Raphael Café features a Spanish lunch buffet on Nov. 15-Jan. 15, 2006. Dishes include Saffron Rice, Arroz ala Cubana, Shellfish, Grilled Chops of Lamb, Egg Omelette with Potatoes, Cured Ham, Turron and Churros. Call 6337111.



MANDARIN Oriental's Tivoli presents Belgian Cuisine Gastronomic Festival on Nov. 14-20. Belgian culinary specialties include Lobster and Chilled Liege Salad with Smoked Milk Foam and Balsamico, Saffron-infused Mussel Soup Flavored with Gueuze and Monkfish with Cream Potatoes on Braised Leek and Air-dried Bacon. Hotpot specialties with servings of meat, seafood and vegetables are also offered. Call 7508888 loc. 2431 and 2433.

Coffee, tea and acoustic numbers



CRÈME Brulée—espresso

THE NEW GLORIA Jean's Coffee SM Megamall does not only offer a good brew but also live acoustic performances 6-7:30 p.m. Fridays, and 5:30-7 p.m. Saturdays.

Enjoy the rich caramel sensation of Crème Brulée—espresso, smoothened with steamed milk and whipped cream and topped with caramel drizzle, as you listen to acoustic performers.

Moreover, every day from 7:30 p.m. onwards, Gloria Jean's Coffee SM Megamall offers free upsize of drinks.

Gloria Jean's Coffee SM Megamall is suitable for small business meetings. Wireless Internet (WiFi) connection will be available soon. The store also offers handcrafted espresso coffee drinks, signature espresso-based cold drinks, a range of blended and estate whole-bean coffees, cocoas and specialty teas, along with pastries, coffee accessories and gifts.

The SM Megamall outlet is the latest addition to the chain of Gloria Jean's Coffee shops. At present, the chain has 18 branches in Metro Manila, two in Cebu City and one in Baguio City.

Gloria Jean's Coffee SM Megamall is in Building A, right above the skating rink. Call 6350560.

TWIGGIES, Gardenia's snack cakes, may be enjoyed as *merienda* or kids' *baon*.

New snack will delight both kids and adults

GARDENIA BAKERIES PHILIPpines, Inc. (GBPI) has come up with snack items that both kids and adults are likely to enjoy, particularly cake lovers.

Twiggies Snack Cake is moist and has rich sweet filling. It goes well with most drinks.

Twiggies can also be frozen for that ice-cream cake taste.

Whether served as *merienda* for visiting friends and relatives or *baon* for kids, households may want to keep Gardenia Twiggies handy.

Gardenia has also given new twists to ordinary breads, adding *ube*, cheese, chocolate, carrot, raisins, strawberry or a nutritious mix of oat flakes, linseeds, sesame seeds, wheat flakes and sunflower kernels in some of them.

Even the traditional *pan de sal* and loaf bread have also been given new treatments, not to mention fortified with some important nutrients.

Whether for snacks or meals, Gardenia now has something to offer.

Gardenia Twiggies Snack Cakes are available in supermarkets and grocery stores nationwide.

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Stew of catfish and herbal leaves

PDI FAMILY RECIPES CONTEST

By Consorcia Arce Reyes

MY GRANDFATHER'S HOBBY was fishing, especially during the rainy season when the rice fields were covered with water. He would come home with *hito* (catfish), mud fish or frogs in his "buslo" (container of his catch). If he showed up with catfish, my grandmother would cook "Lagat na Hito." The *alagaw* leaves that she added to the stew were herbal or medicinal.

My grandmother died at the age of 103 in 1960, but the family's favorite traditional recipe lives on in the kitchens of the present (fourth) generation.

Lagat na Hito with Alagaw Leaves

1 kg *hito* (catfish) cut 1½ inch
1 c tomatoes cut into cubes
1/3 c soy sauce
2 tbsp *patis* (fish sauce)
1 c sliced onion
2 tbsp finely chopped fresh paprika or yellow ginger
Alagaw leaves
1 tbsp garlic, minced
½ c vinegar
1 ½ c water
1 tbsp finely chopped *dayap* rind
1 tsp ground black pepper

Sauté garlic, onion, fresh paprika and tomatoes. Cook well; add water to boil. Add *dayap* rind, *hito*, soy sauce and *patis*. Cover for 3 minutes. Add vinegar and let boil for another 2 minutes. Add black pepper and *alagaw* leaves. Mix well and cover for 3 minutes. Serve hot. Good for family of 10 persons.

LAGAT na Hito with Alagaw Leaves

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LIFESTYLE IS LOOKING FOR recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients.

Send us your family recipes and, if your entry is chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, an Imarflex gift or a class at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served. Write your name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address, if any, at the bottom of the recipe.

Include a **photo of the dish.** Please do not send us your photo.

Mail or deliver your entry to PDI Family Recipes Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263. Or e-mail to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph.** For details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. Winners may claim prizes from the PDI marketing office.

Give plain pancakes a new twist

THROUGH THE YEARS, THE HOTcake has come to be known as a popular food for breakfasts and snacks. Aside from being quick and easy to cook, the great appeal of hotcake lies in its delicious taste and nutritive value. Hotcakes are rich in carbohydrates that give energy. One piece of hotcake is also enough to fill a hungry tummy. With butter and hotcake syrup, hotcakes are so unbeatably yummy.

Still, no matter how you or the members of your family love hotcakes, boredom will eventually set in if hotcakes are served the same way every so often.

Thankfully, Liberty Commodities Corporation, the makers of Maya Hotcakes, offers suggestions for hotcakes with a twist:

Add chocolate chips. Include bittersweet chocolate chips when you whip up some hotcakes. Simply sprinkle some as the hotcake mix is starting to have "bubbles" or "holes" as it is cooking in the frying pan or skillet.

Get fruity. Top a stack of hotcakes with fruits such as peaches or strawberries. Add a dollop of cream. Another option is to put sliced bananas while you are cooking the hotcake in the pan. Fruits will give the hotcake added nutritive value as they are rich in vitamins and minerals.

Shape them. Cookie cutters are not just for cutting cookie dough. You can also use them to make interesting shapes out of hotcakes. So hotcakes don't have to be round, they can also be triangles, stars, diamonds, squares, crescent-shaped, even animal shaped.

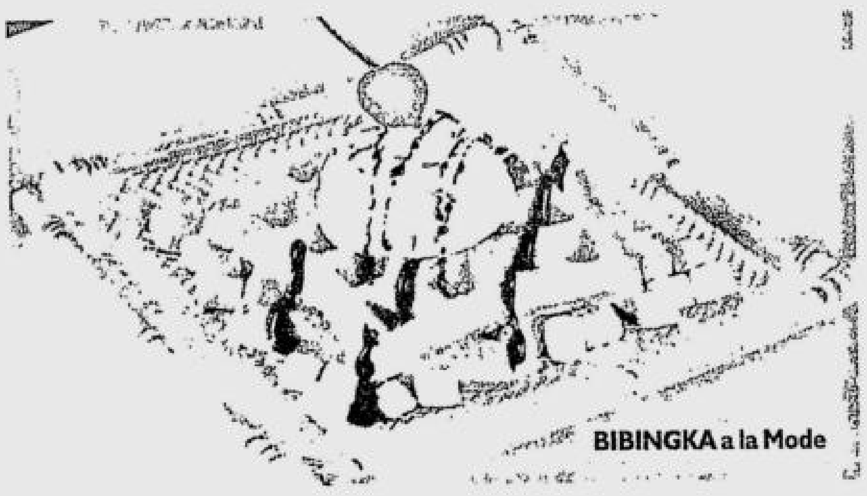
Sugar and margarine. An alternative to the butter and hotcake syrup combo. Simply spread margarine on top of the hotcake and sprinkle sugar. The sugar on top will give a "crunchy" texture to the hotcake. You can also use confectioner's sugar for a gourmet taste.

Chocolate or strawberry syrup. Leave a bottle of chocolate syrup or strawberry syrup on the table and let your kids pour the sweet goodness on to their hotcakes.

Candy sprinkles. Aside from making the hotcake sweet, candy sprinkles also add color, making it so much more fun to eat.

More than hotcakes. Maya Hotcake Mix is not just for hotcakes. Try Maya's Bibingka a la Mode topped with Vanilla Ice Cream, cashew nuts and chocolate syrup, and Mashed Potato Pancakes, a new twist to the classic mashed potato and a hearty option for dinner and lunch.

Try Maya Hotcakes also with crepes and waffles. Indeed, there are endless possibilities with Maya Hotcake Mix!



BIBINGKA a la Mode

Mashed Potato Pancakes

1 230 g pack Maya Original Hotcake Mix
1 egg
1 c mashed potatoes
1 tbsp onion, chopped
½ tsp dried marjoram, crumbled
1/3 c liver pâté
¾ c water

In a bowl, combine all ingredients. Store until blended.

In a large heavy skillet, pour ¼ c of the mixture. Grill until bubbly. Turn pancake to cook completely. Do the same for the rest of the mixture.

Serve the pancakes as an accompaniment to meat, poultry and egg.

Bibingka a la Mode

1 150 g pack Maya Oven Toaster Mix - Bibingka
1 egg
½ water
1 cup tablespoon butter
Vanilla ice cream
Chocolate syrup
Crushed cashew nuts or toasted coconuts

In a bowl, combine egg, eater and butter.

Pour mixture in a hot griddle pan and cook *bibingka* until done.

To serve: Place *bibingka* waffle on a dessert plate, top with a scoop of ice cream. Drizzle with chocolate syrup and top with nuts. Serve immediately.

Recipes courtesy of The Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center, Liberty Commodities Corporation. Call 8925011 local 108, or 8921185.

CCS
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International Cake Exploration Societe
ICES
Avelina C. Florendo
1ST ASIAN "ICES" HALL OF FAME AWARDEE

1. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC CAKE DECORATING - (P10,500. for whole course)
P4,000 - NOV. 7 - 8 - Learn 10 diff. kinds of icing flowers, figure piping. Bake & decorate your basket weave cake using boiled icing.
P2,750 - NOV. 9 - Bake & decorate your own character birthday cake using star tips, simple borders & icing flowers.
P4,500 - NOV. 10 - 11 - Wedding cake assembly: Bake & decorate your own 2 tiered wedding cake using fancy borders, scrolls, strings & icing flowers.
NEXT SCHED: DEC. 5 - 9
2. // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING FOR DIABETIC
P3,000 - NOV. 12 - Flaky (kaliskis) Empanada, Coffee Cheese Cake, Chocolate Nut Pie, Pineapple Flower Cake, Lemonpie.
NEXT SCHED: DEC.10
P3,000 - NOV. 19 - Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread
NEXT SCHED: DEC. 17
P3,000 - NOV. 26 - Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies, Baking for Diabetics
NEXT SCHED: DEC. 24
3. NOV. 14 - 18 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED CAKE DECORATING - (P10,500. for whole course)
P3,500 - NOV. 14 - 15 - Learn new & easy method of gumpaste flowers, cattleya, rose stephanotis & baby's breath using latest recipe, make your own bootie using textured rolling pin.
P3,500 - NOV. 16 - Learn the latest recipe of fondant chocolate fondant, its application using texture rolling pins & lace mats, quilling & swags & ribbon.
P4,500 - NOV. 17 - 18 - Fondant wedding cake assembly. Bake & decorate your 2 tiered wedding cake using ribbon insertion, finest string works & lace pieces.
NEXT SCHED: DEC. 12 - 15
4. NOV. 21 - 25 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - (P12,500. For whole course)
P2,500 - NOV. 21 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P2,500 - NOV. 22 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamon.
P2,750 - NOV. 23 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & white bread.
P2,750 - NOV. 24 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart.
P2,500 - NOV. 25 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons
NEXT SCHED: DEC. 19 - 23
5. P4,500 - NOV. 21 - 25 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE.
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling, b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium, c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies; d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes. 'COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS by appointment'
NEXT SCHED: DEC. 19 - 23
6. NOV. 28 - DEC. 2 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - (P13,500. For whole course)
Learn to make 25 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration.
P3,500 - NOV 28 - All Sponge Cakes: Nelusko cake, Black Forest cake, Queen's Torte, Solothurn, Fruit Torte cake.
P3,500 - NOV 29 - All Chiffon Cakes: Mango cake, Ube cake, Pistaschio cake, Chocolate cake, Pandan cake.
P3,500 - NOV. 30 - All Butter Cakes: Rum Pound cake, Special Ensaymada, Special Fruit cake, Sans Rival, Apple Walnut cakes.
P3,500 - DEC. 1 - Cheese Cakes: Blueberry Cheese cake, Decadent Chocolate Cake, Cheese Chocolate, Tiramisu, Food for the Gods, Cookies & Cream.
P3,500 - DEC 2 - Coffee Crunch, Kahlua Cake, Fan Torte, Crema de Frutas, Chocolate Mousse Cake
FOR SPECIAL SCHEDULE PLS. CALL
7. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW COURSE & LATEST GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P3,000. BY APPOINTMENT

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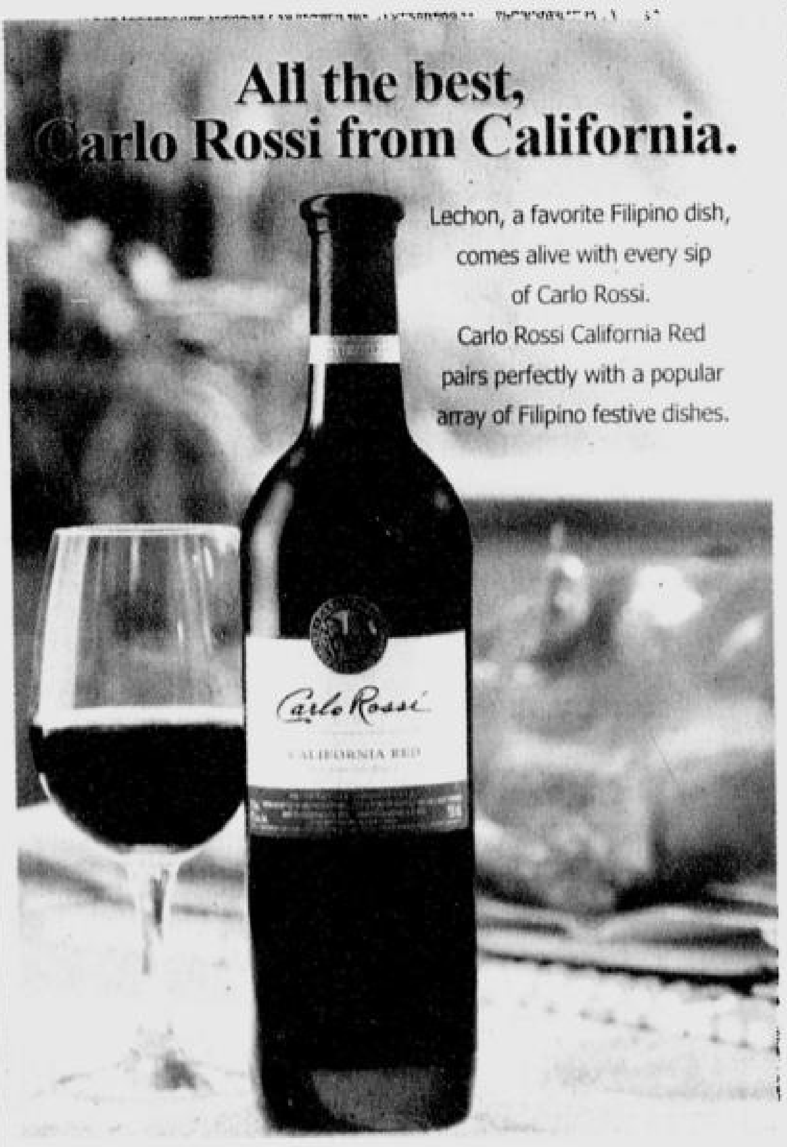
Brine and brisket classes



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Nov. 5—Sizzling!—Burger Steak, Chicken Steak, Pork Chop Steak, Sizzling Angus Steak with Mushroom Gravy, Tuna Teriyaki,

Nov. 7—Brisket (all new)—Scrumptious Whole Marinated Barbecued Slab of Tender Beef Brisket with six Barbecue Sauces. Salad, Side Dishes and Dessert

Nov. 9—Christmas Cakes and Loaves, Say Goodbye to Recycled Gifts!—The Perfect Banana Cake 2 Versions, Apple Cake, Walnut Cake, Butter Cake, Wine Cake, Food for the Gods

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 0917-8399888.